Hafa Adai!

SUNDAY

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XVIII, Issue No. 237 | AUGUST 24, 2008 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you agree with the governor's reasons in his decision to declare a state of disaster emergency for the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Garden Shelters

Gardens existed before gardeners, but gardeners can claim credit for the idea of shelters and trellises.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING... Page 10

Butterfly Pal

In July last year, a butterfly landed on my shoulder while I was taking a break from my office.

GOOD LIFE...Page 12

Fairy Tale

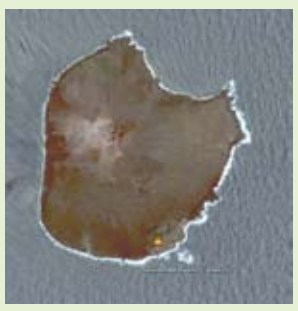
Gerren Taylor was still playing with Barbie dolls when she walked the runway for the first time.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

Bush pushes marine monuments

To protect Pacific islands before he leaves office in January

FARALLON DE PAJAROS



Farallon de Pajaros (from Spanish Farallón de los pájaros, meaning Birds Rock), also known as Urracas (from Spanish Urracas, meaning Magpies), is the northernmost island in the Northern Mariana Islands chain. It is 1.2 miles in diameter, and it is a volcanic island that has had many eruptions. Its northern neighbor is South Iwo Jima of the Ogasawara Islands of Japan. Farallon de Pajaros is uninhabited.

LAND AREA: 2.55 sq km (0.985 sq mi)
ELEVATION: 1,180 feet (360 m) at highest point
LOCATION: 20°32°42°N, 144°53°37°E
TYPE: Stratovolcano
LAST ERUPTION: 1967

Image courtesy of Google Earth
Source: Wikipedia

MAUG ISLANDS

The Maug Islands consist of three islands that surround the caldera of an ancient volcano. This uninhabited group is part of the Northern Islands Municipality of the Northern Mariana Islands. In the place of the ancient volcanic peak is now a deep and spacious natural harbor. Steep cliffs border the islands and the landscape on the north and west islands is dominated by columns of basalt resembling tombstones. Vegetation on the islands consist mostly of grasses with a few coconut palms. During World War II (1939-1945) the islands were used by the Japanese as a manned weather station.

ISLAND	AREA (SQ KM)	HEIGHT (M)
North Island	0.466	227
East Island	0.951	215
West Island	0.711	178
TOTAL	**2.128**	**227**

Image courtesy of Google Earth
Source: Wikipedia

ASUNCION ISLAND

Asuncion is the third northernmost independent island in the Northern Mariana Islands chain. It is located in the far northern part of the Mariana arc of volcanic islands, situated 101 km northwest of Agrihan and 37 km southeast of the Maug Islands. Most coastlines are rocky or cliff-like. There are a number of deep ravines breaking up the slopes. Administratively it is a part of the Northern Islands Municipality. The island is heavily vegetated with coconut palm plantations and broadleaf forests. The ravines are also heavily vegetated with other woody species. The island is uninhabited.

LAND AREA: 7.31 sq km (2.82 sq mi)
ELEVATION: 857m at the tallest point
LOCATION: 19°43°N, 145°41°E.
TYPE: Stratovolcano
LAST ERUPTION: 1906

Image courtesy of Google Earth
Source: Wikipedia

Study: $333M, 400 jobs for NMI

A study of the proposal to establish a marine monument in the CNMI's northernmost islands says the plan will boost the Commonwealth's economy and draw thousands of new tourists to the region.

Authored by University of Guam economist Dr. Thomas Iverson, the study says the proposal will bring approximately 8,000 new tourists to the CNMI each year and create 400 new jobs. It estimates the plan will result in $333 million in economic benefits over the next several years.

To view the entire report, go to http://www.pewtrusts.org/our_work_report_detail.aspx?id=40478&category=136

WHAT'S NEXT

Cabinet, Council on Environmental Quality will evaluate levels of protection and the impacts of establishing marine reserves. Review to take one to two months.

Saipan
Rota
Hagåtña (Agaña)

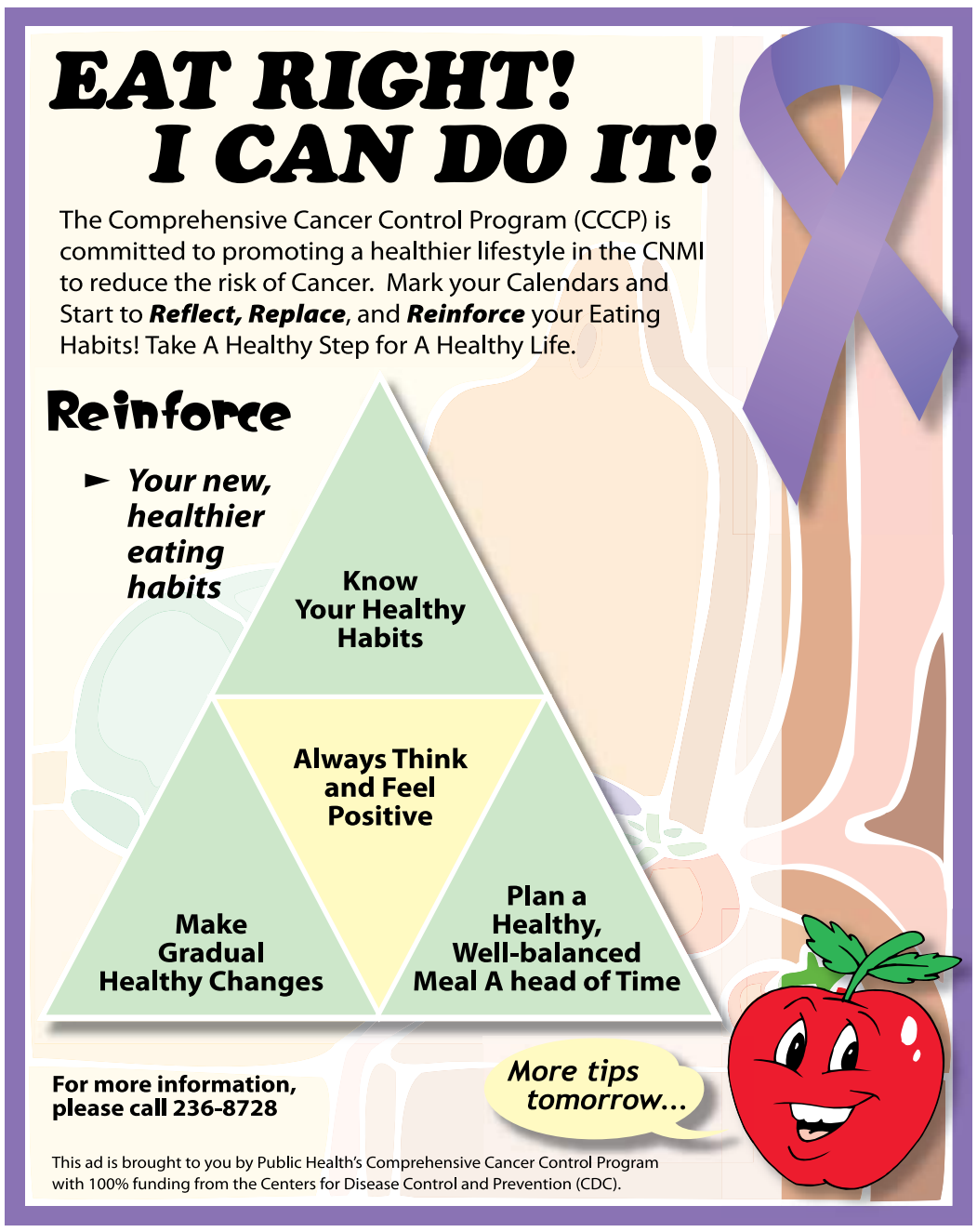
By DINA CAPPIELLO
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

President George W. Bush will seek formal comment from his Cabinet agencies next week on a plan that could make three of the most remote and pristine island chains in the world off-limits to commercial fishing and minerals exploration.

See BUSH on Page 4

Senate allows CUC to hire 19 alien workers. **PAGE 2**
Rota High trying to offer Spanish class. **PAGE 3**

Around the CNMI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Senate OKs CUC to hire 19 alien workers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate on Friday unanimously passed a House bill that would allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to hire alien workers until 2010 to address the severe manpower shortage at CUC's power plants in Lower Base.

All eight senators voted for the passage of the legislation amending the existing law that prevents CUC from hiring alien workers. With the action, CUC will hire 12 nonresident workers and renew the contracts of seven others who are currently employed at the utility agency.

During Friday's session, Sen. Luis P. Crisostimo expressed opposition to the legislation, noting, among other things, that the power plants are not worth fixing or maintaining anymore because "they are junk."

Sen. Felix T. Mendiola suggested inserting an amendment in the legislation to ensure that there will be a training program for locals.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes told Saipan Tribune yesterday that he was able to convince Crisostimo and Mendiola to support the legislation without any amendment.

Reyes said majority of the senators have gone down to CUC to see the problems.

"And the problem is, it has reached a critical situation and the people do not deserve to continue the power outages if we don't have employees," he pointed out.

The Senate president said if the two power engines that are currently working break down, then the entire island would go dark.

"To avoid that, as much as we are very pro-local hire, we went ahead and approved [the bill] based on what we saw at the power plants," Reyes said.

Sen. Maria Frica Pangelinan said they all supported the need to allow CUC to hire foreign workers due to the critical conditions of the power engines.

Pangelinan said the power engines require constant monitoring, which the current employees can no longer keep up.

Last Monday, the House unanimously approved the legislation, which was introduced by Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero. With the Senate's approval, the bill now goes to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

On Friday, Fitial urged the Legislature to support an amendment of the law to allow the hiring of alien workers at CUC.

The Governor's Strategic Economic Development Council had also adopted a resolution urging Fitial to exercise his powers to hire guest workers for CUC to ensure the consistent delivery of power, water, and wastewater services to residents.

Power plants officials have informed CUC executive director Antonio Muña that the removal of the 20 alien workers in September 2007 dramatically impacted the overall operation of the power generation division.

DUE TO LOW TURNOUT OF VOTERS

Youth Congress reorganization sought

Noting the low turnout of voters each election, Rep. Ralph Torres wants to reorganize the composition of the CNMI Youth Congress.

Torres has introduced House Bill 16-144 that proposes to move the election date of the Youth Congress in order to allow ample time for student registration and other necessities.

The lawmaker pointed out that pursuant to the law, the Youth Congress has, in addition to others, three senators each from Precincts 1 and 3, and the Northern Marianas College.

Torres noted that only two of three positions given to the NMI were filled during the 10th CNMI Youth Congress.

"Precincts in the election of the 10th CNMI Youth Congress continued its trend and registered a low turnout of 12 percent," said Torres in the bill.

Public high schools on Saipan, he said, each have over 700 students, yet are represented by only one youth senator.

The congressman said Precincts 1 and 3 are allotted three seats regardless of the population of their constituents and registered voters.

Torres underscored the need to defer the election to a later date in order to accommodate new incoming students and to allow sufficient time for registration, to collect signatures on petitions, and other organizing obligations.

Torres said there is a need to ensure better representation to the youth by allocating seats to schools with larger enrollment and population and taking from the precincts that have shown modest constituents and registered voters.

Torres' bill proposes to have one senator instead of three for Precinct 1; the same one senator in Precinct 2; one senator instead of three in Precinct 3; one senator in Precinct 4; one senator in Precinct 5; and one senator each for Tinian and Rota.

With respect to school representation, the legislation proposes that each private and public high school with a student population of 20 or more and want to participate shall have one senator.

For each participating private and public high school with more than 300 students, they shall have one additional senator for every 300 students over 300.

The bill also proposes to have one senator instead of three from NMC.

Torres said the general election for the Youth Congress should be held on the third Monday in October instead of September and each year thereafter. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

First Annual
Business Forum
"Partnering for the Future"

World Resort Royal Taga Hall
Thursday August 28, 2008
8:30 am - 4:30pm

Topics:
- **U.S. Public Law 110-229**
- **Immigration through the Transition Period**
- **Military Build up**
- **Local Opportunities**
- **Aquaculture and Agriculture Opportunities**
- **CNMI's Plan**

To register, please send your name, contact information, address, and company/agency/organization name to cnmibizz@gmail.com or call: 664-3018

Registration is limited

Sponsors:
Department of Commerce and Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA)

SAES orientation schedule

San Antonio Elementary School would like to inform the public that parent orientation for the following grade levels will be as follows:

Sept. 8 (Monday)
4th Graders—4:00-5:00 p.m.
5th Graders—5:00-6:00 p.m.
6th Graders—6:00-7:00 p.m.

Sept. 9 (Tuesday)
1st Graders—4:00-5:00 p.m.
2nd Graders—5:00-6:00 p.m.
3rd Graders—6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

The orientation will be in each respective classroom. We would like to ask all the parents to be present to receive important information that will be given out by each classroom teacher. ***(PR)***

Rota High trying to offer Spanish class

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rota High School Acting Principal Sharlene Manglona wants to offer Spanish as a foreign language to her students, but she is having difficulty finding a qualified teacher.

Manglona said she has a candidate who has taken several courses in the language but has a degree in the medical field. Manglona is currently working with the Public School System's Human Resources department to determine if the teacher qualifies.

"[Spanish] would really help our students," she said.

Manglona said she wants Rota High School to focus more on teaching Spanish, as opposed to Japanese, the foreign language they have taught in the past.

To be successful in the CNMI or the mainland, it is important to know Spanish, she said.

"I want to move away from Japanese," she said. "Most students go to the mainland and our focus should be to get students familiar with [Spanish]."

If the candidate Manglona is hoping will teach Spanish does not qualify, she will teach in the science field and the school will continue to teach Japanese, Manglona said.

Manglona is still looking to hire two more teachers for this coming school year. She wants to have 13 or 14 teachers for the 165 students expected.

Woman charged with selling meth changes plea

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A woman who was charged in federal court for selling methamphetamine or "ice" on Tinian has changed her plea to guilty.

According to the indictment, on or about April 12, 2008, Guihua Luo King, 33, also known as Mimi, and her husband, Oscar M. King, 62, conspired to distribute methamphetamine on Tinian. The two allegedly distributed and possessed 1.5 net grams of methamphetamine.

Guihua Luo King's jury trial had been set for tomorrow when she initially pleaded guilty.

King was charged with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years' imprisonment; fine of $1,000,000; a $100 special assessment; and a minimum term of supervised release for three years. Sentencing is set for Nov. 25.

Attorney Mark Hanson filed a motion to waive Oscar M. King's right to a speedy trial. Oscar King, a former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. employee, is now set to stand trial Oct. 20.

Last April, Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman unsealed the case against the Kings.

Detective Anthony P. Borja stated in his report that a confidential informant had disclosed on April 11 that he was buying methamphetamine from the King couple.

Borja said they conducted a buy operation using the confidential informant at the couple's room in Hong Kong apartment.

After the informant bought $30 worth of methamphetamine from the suspects, Borja said, they arranged for another buy worth $100.

The detective said that on April 12 they served a search warrant at the suspects' apartment room where they seized $5,953 cash and 58 pieces of clear plastic straw filled with methamphetamine.

Court orders psych evaluation for 21-yr-old man

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Attorney General's Office asked for a psychological evaluation for Tommy Iderbei, who has been charged with assault, criminal mischief and disturbing the peace four times during a two-week span in June and July.

"It seems like there's been a cycle of disturbances in his family. He comes back for the same crime," the prosecutor said of Iderbei, 21.

Superior Court associate judge Ramona Villagomez set Iderbei's bail at $5,000 and ordered a court psychological evaluation. He is also to have no contact with the victim

Iderbei was arrested Thursday night, the day before his bail hearing, for reportedly committing similar crimes. He spent the night at the Department of Corrections.

Pacific leaders issue ultimatum vs Fiji

Target elections by March 2009 or be suspended

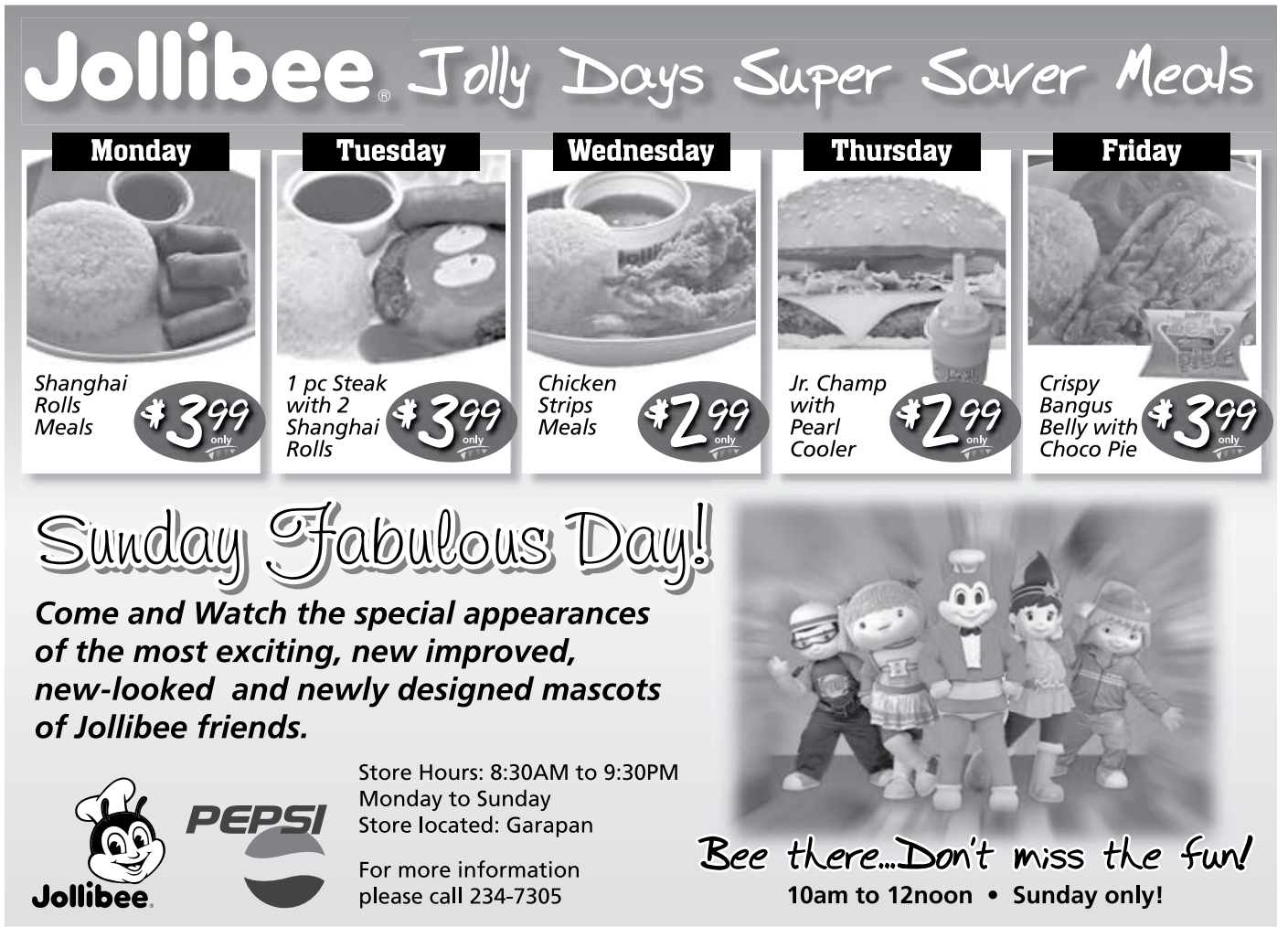
SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive/PIR)—The Pacific Island Forum leaders have issued a last warning to Fiji to work towards elections by March, 2009 or risk suspension.

According to the New Zealand Herald website, the 15 leaders broke from their retreat at the Forum in Niue yesterday to unanimously state Fiji must work toward elections by March.

This after Fiji's interim Prime Minister Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama backed down from promises last year to hold elections by March.

The report said if Fiji fails to work towards elections with the help of other countries, it risks being suspended from the forum at a special meeting of the leaders at the end of this year.

New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark said considering suspension of a country was an unprecedented move for the Pacific Forum. The Forum chair Toke Talagi said it was important for the forum to maintain its integrity as a regional organization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Senate OKs Tudela as DPS commissioner

The Senate on Friday confirmed the appointment of Santiago F. Tudela as commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.

All eight senators congratulated Tudela after receiving the votes of approval.

Sen. Luis Crisostimo, however, asked the new commissioner to initiate a "quick fix" on the rampant burglary cases happening on Saipan.

Crisostimo cited that a month ago three generators from his building in Chalan Kanoa were stolen.

Tudela expressed appreciation to the senators for their confidence in him running DPS again.

"I will just do [the things] that I have to do," the commissioner told *Saipan Tribune* after the session.

He said he would not only focus his programs on Saipan, but also on Tinian and Rota as well.

"As commissioner, I am supposed to take care of the entire CNMI police force," Tudela said.

The commissioner said he and the police force would try their best to address the burglary problem.

Tudela earlier disclosed that his priorities would be opening up the police and fire cycle that will address the manpower shortage problem at DPS.

The Fitial administration terminated Claudio K. Norita as DPS commissioner and tapped Tudela as his replacement.

Tudela served as DPS commissioner during the Babauta administration. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Ruth Coleman of the Military and Veterans Affairs Office and USS *Stethem* Commanding Officer Shan Byrne and another US Navy officer join Gov. Benigno Fitial for the wreath laying ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of the American Memorial park yesterday.

Fitial thanks NPS, Interior for maintaining AMP

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial thanked yesterday the National Park Service and the U.S. Department of the Interior for the maintenance of the American Memorial Park on Saipan as a historic and sacred site.

"Thank you for being the responsible stewards and custodians of this important national park, where the lives of so many are recorded, and where memories and reminders of the past are maintained," Fitial told guests and over a hundred attendees at the wreath laying ceremony marking the park's 30th anniversary at the Court of Honor and Flag Circle yesterday.

Fitial said it is important to remember that the park is not just a tribute to the sacrifices of war but also an enduring reminder of the importance of peace and the value of freedom.

He said the park is a significant and noteworthy site for many visitors to enjoy.

"For many years after World War II ended for the people of the Northern Marianas, there was no national monument to pay tribute to the thousands of U.S. servicemen who made the ultimate sacrifice for the liberation of the Northern Marianas," Fitial noted.

He said these gallant men made the ultimate sacrifice not only for the liberation of these islands but for the conclusion of the most destructive war in history.

The CNMI also had no monument to honor its local civilians who perished in the epic battle of 1944, he said, thanking the patriots and community members who worked to make this park a reality for all visitors and local residents to appreciate.

"Here in this national par, we have the names of the sailors, airmen, soldiers, coast guard men, and Marines who battled valiantly in 1944. Here, we also have the names of many local residents who lost their lives during the battle," Fitial said.

Many local families, he said, can look upon this monument and see the names of their parents, great-grandparents, or great-great grandparents, uncles and aunts.

"It is here, also, that we have welcomed the returning World War II veterans, as well as other visiting veterans. It is here. With the flags and the names, we remember the historic events that took place decades ago—the events which transformed our lives today, and which gave birth to a freedom our people had not experienced before 1944."

Samoan judge to head Pacific Islands Forum

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Pacific Islands Forum leaders have chosen Tuiloma Neroni Slade of Samoa as the Secretary General for a three-year term.

Tuiloma, who has been a judge at the International Criminal Court in the Netherlands, was one of three candidates trying to succeed Greg Urwin of Australia who died earlier this month.

Tuiloma was also a candidate in 1997.

His appointment was announced in the communique released at the end of the Niue summit.

While the bulk of that report is taken up with the condemnation of the Fiji interim government and the threat of suspension from the agency, the leaders have also agreed to push for rugby as an Olympic sport.

There was a commitment by New Zealand to bring in experts to try and progress the push to buy fuel in bulk for the small island countries.

Australia's signing of the Kyoto agreement was welcomed along with their offer of 135 million US dollars for a Climate Change Adaptation Program with the bulk of that money to be spent in the Pacific.

Cook Islands seek to expand offshore territory by 15 pct.

RAROTONGA, Cook Islands (Cook Islands News/PIR)—The Commonwealth Secretariat is here to help the Cook Islands in its claim to increase the country's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) by at least 15 percent.

This will mean adding about 300,000 square kilometres north west of one of the largest EEZ's in the Pacific. The country's waters cover 2 million square kilometres.

Legal advisor to the secretariat's economic and legal section of the special advisory services division, Joshua Brien, and the head of his division, Daniel Dumas, are in Rarotonga this week to work with government on this as well as deep sea bed mining policies and legislation.

Brien provides legal and policy advice to Commonwealth member countries on matters concerning maritime boundaries and natural resources.

The United Nations has set a May 2009 deadline for claims to extend Pacific island country EEZs.

Brien says they are assisting with the submission to the UN on extending the Cooks' continental shelf limits, which is a major undertaking. An extension to the continental shelf will mean that a country can have access to the seabed, and any live organisms on or beneath it.

"We've been impressed by the work done by (CI) government to date. The Cook Islands claim won't impinge on another country's waters. Some of the other countries have overlapping claims so the Cook Islands claim will be easier in this sense," says Brien.

Last December the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) said that countries may have to speed up work on these claims because the deadline is fast approaching.

SOPAC maritime boundaries expert Andrick Lal says with limited time, countries are feeling the pressure to make submissions to the United Nations.

BUSH

From Page 1

The action, which could be completed before Bush leaves office, would rank as one of the largest marine conservation efforts in history.

Bush's proposal would conserve parts of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Line Islands in the central Pacific Ocean and American Samoa, environmentalists who participated in a 40-minute conference call about the plan Friday told The Associated Press. Making them off limits to fishing and energy development is the most stringent of the possible measures outlined.

The proposal is expected to be made public as early as Monday, when the White House plans to send a memo to Cabinet members, including the Defense, Interior and Commerce secretaries, and the Council on Environmental Quality. They will evaluate various levels of protection for the three areas and the impacts of establishing marine reserves. The review is expected to take one to two months, the participants said.

"We have every expectation that the president will move forward protecting these places sometime in the fall," said Diane Regas, the ocean program director at the Environmental Defense Fund, who was on the phone call Friday. "Today we put the champagne on ice, and we will pop it open."

Two years ago, the president made a huge swath of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands a national monument, barring fishing, oil and gas extraction and tourism from its waters and coral reefs. The area is the single largest conservation area on the planet.

It is unclear whether Bush will designate these new areas as monuments, or use another executive mechanism that would allow limited fishing and other activities.

Conservation groups have been lobbying the White House to set aside 115,000 square miles (297,850 sq. kilometers) of the Northern Marianas as a marine monument. The Marianas, a U.S. commonwealth, which is 1,400 miles (2,250 kilometers) south of Japan in the Pacific, is known as the Grand Canyon of the ocean and includes 14 islands that are home to seabirds, endangered and threatened sea turtles and giant coconut crabs, the largest land-living crustacean.

The Environmental Defense Fund has advocated for the Line Islands in the central Pacific along the equator to be protected. It is home to five times as many coral species as the Florida Keys.

As for American Samoa, the governor of that U.S. territory, Togiola Tulafono, asked Bush in May to designate Rose Atoll as a national monument, citing its use as a nesting spot for endangered green sea turtles and a stopover for 12 species of migratory birds.

A spokeswoman for the Council on Environmental Quality would not confirm the phone call or the timing of the announcement.

"These vast Pacific areas are nearly three times the size of Texas," said Elliott Norse, founder and President of Marine Conservation Biology Institute, who participated in the conference call. "Countless seabirds, dolphins, fishes, corals and tiny things as yet undiscovered could survive as a result, free of the threats that are eliminating them elsewhere."

CPA board finally attains a quorum

As Senate confirms three more board members

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has now a functional board of directors after the Senate on Friday confirmed the nomination of three more members.

Hours after the Senate's action, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial swore in as new CPA board members former senator Thomas "Kiyu" P. Villagomez, former representative Benigno M. Sablan, and retiree Fermin Sakisat.

Fitial also included in the swearing in former CPA board chair Joe Lifoifoi. Lifoifoi does not need to be confirmed because the administration asked him to continue service on the board.

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the four, all representing Saipan, will join former Tinian senator Manuel Villagomez, who was confirmed last month.

"I think we have already established the board. We already have a quorum," Reyes said.

The CPA board has seven members, including one representative each from Rota and Tinian.

Barry Toves representing Rota has yet to be confirmed. There is one more vacant seat for the Saipan position.

Reyes said that, as soon as Fitial received confirmation from the Senate Friday afternoon, the governor quickly moved to swear them in so that they can have a quorum and get started with the urgent business of CPA.

Last June, CPA board members resigned en masse amid financial problems that reportedly caused the agency to nearly default on its $20-million airport revenue bond.

Fitial asked the members to resign after he suspended the board and took over CPA.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, left, swears in CPA board members Friday afternoon, hours after some members were confirmed by the Senate. Board members include Joe Lifoifoi, Benigno M. Sablan, Sakisat, and Thomas P. Villagomez.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY GIRL

Happy birthday to pretty Jia Ross Nicdao, who just celebrated her first birthday at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe. She is shown here with her proud parents, Mommy Rosal and Daddy Jess.

Pacific utilities push for bulk fuel buying

RAROTONGA, Cook Islands (Cook Islands News/PIR)—There is an urgent need for regional action to be taken on fuel prices as high diesel prices are harming the viability of Pacific power utilities, their communities and consumers.

This declaration was made as part of the communiqué from the 17th annual Pacific Power Association conference held in the Cook Islands last week.

According to Te Aponga Uira chief executive Apii Timoti, the managers of the power utilities from the Pacific region who attended the conference recognise that a regional approach must be taken to resolving the issues they face as power utilities.

"We are very small by global terms and in the challenges that face each one of us, we need the support of one another. We cannot operate in isolation of each other any more", says Timoti.

Consumers taking a hit because of rising fuel costs were also discussed. However, it was agreed that the postponement of fuel price increases into the power utility tariff undermines the utility's ability to successfully raise capital for energy projects and cover necessary fuel expenses.

For the regional action plan to begin, a majority of PPA utility chief executives have agreed to a fuel price-hedging programme involving the World Bank, the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) and the OPEC (Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) Development Fund.

"By combining utility fuel purchases there would be sufficient gallons/litres to mitigate the effects of oil price shocks. Individual utilities were too small to do this individually.

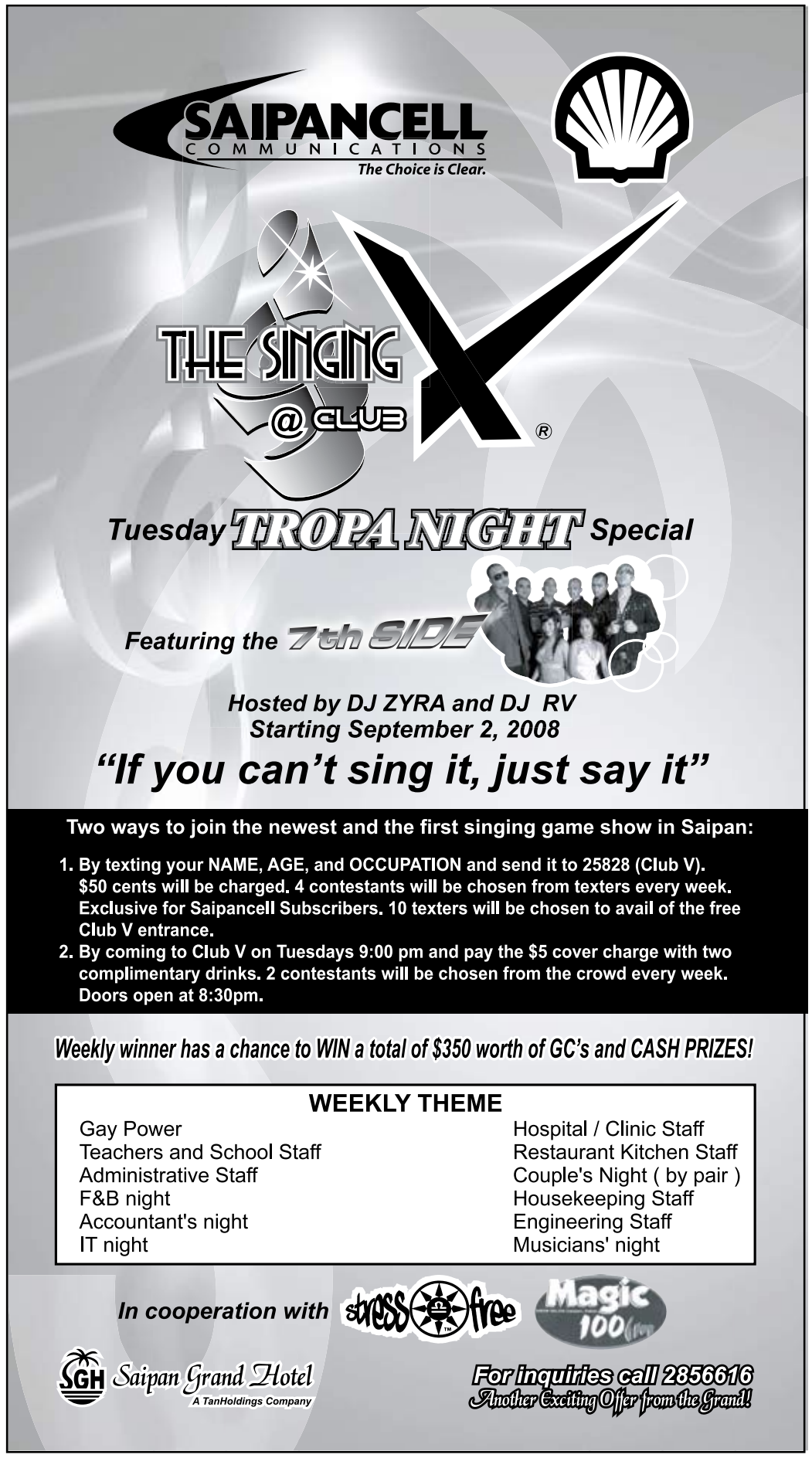
"The PPA would work with the Forum Secretariat and governments to develop bulk fuel procurement arrangements to reduce costs. It was also agreed that the PPA would coordinate action to improve utilities' efficiency, promote the use of renewable energy and develop demand side management to help individual and business consumers reduce their energy costs," the communiqué states.

Assistance for this is already coming from the European Union (EU), US Department of Interior (USDOI) and the chief executives have called for more donors to assist the PPA in practical action.

The PPA, a member of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) is tasked with implementing energy efficiency and human capacity improvements in power utilities.

Among the countries represented at last week's conference were the Federated States of Micronesia (the States of Pohnpei, Kosrae and Yap), Republic of the Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tuvalu, American Samoa, Solomon Islands, New Caledonia and French Polynesia.

The regional action plan is to be prepared for the Pacific energy ministers meeting in 2009 in Tonga.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Administrative Staff
F&B night
Accountant's night
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Restaurant Kitchen Staff
Couple's Night (by pair)
Housekeeping Staff
Engineering Staff
Musicians' night
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVII, Issue No. 237

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Games behind bars

We have tried hard, since the Olympic Games began 14 days ago, to maintain a positive Olympic spirit. We understand how important the Games are to many Chinese, and we've been rooting for the Games' success. We didn't dwell on the Chinese decision, made "in the national interest," to keep a little girl off camera and have her dub a singing performance for the opening ceremony while another girl lip-synced because the singer was deemed not cute enough to be presented. We didn't really care about the phony fireworks, and we passed over China's decision to have Han Chinese dress up in ethnic costumes rather than allow members of the actual minority groups to participate. We marveled at Michael Phelps and Usain Bolt and tried not to think about the fact that China had set aside three areas for political protest and then refused to grant anyone a permit to protest there.

Then came the news of Wu Dianyuan and Wang Xiuying, and to be honest, it has put our Olympic spirit to the test. The elderly women had been seeking permission from the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau to protest against officials' evicting them from their homes in 2001. The security bureau apparently became tired of their asking for permission to protest and this week informed the women that they had been sentenced to a year of "reeducation through labor." Whether the sentence is carried out apparently depends on how they behave from now on, and on the whims of the police. Wu is 79 years old. Wang is 77, blind in one eye and nearly blind in the other.

What should we make of a government that considers sending two frail old women to a labor camp for seeking permission to peacefully protest? Yes, we can hear the apologists chiming in: The Chinese people are freer today than they were during the lunatic days of the Cultural Revolution, different countries develop in different ways, America isn't perfect, and so forth and so on. All that is true, and, at some point, it also seems irrelevant. When they were seeking to host the Games, Chinese officials promised to use the Olympics to expand freedom of expression and "benefit the further development of our human rights cause," as Beijing's mayor said. Now we know the promise was a lie.

The International Olympic Committee consistently has enabled and excused Beijing as it has broken promises and moved backward on human rights. Recently, an IOC spokeswoman acknowledged that "to date, what had been announced publicly doesn't appear in reality to be happening, and a number of questions are being asked." We hope that before IOC President Jacques Rogge shows up at the closing ceremony to proclaim the Games a great success, he insists on hearing some answers. At a minimum, he should skip the ceremony if Wang and Wu aren't permitted to protest and are not given a reprieve from their despicable one-year sentence.

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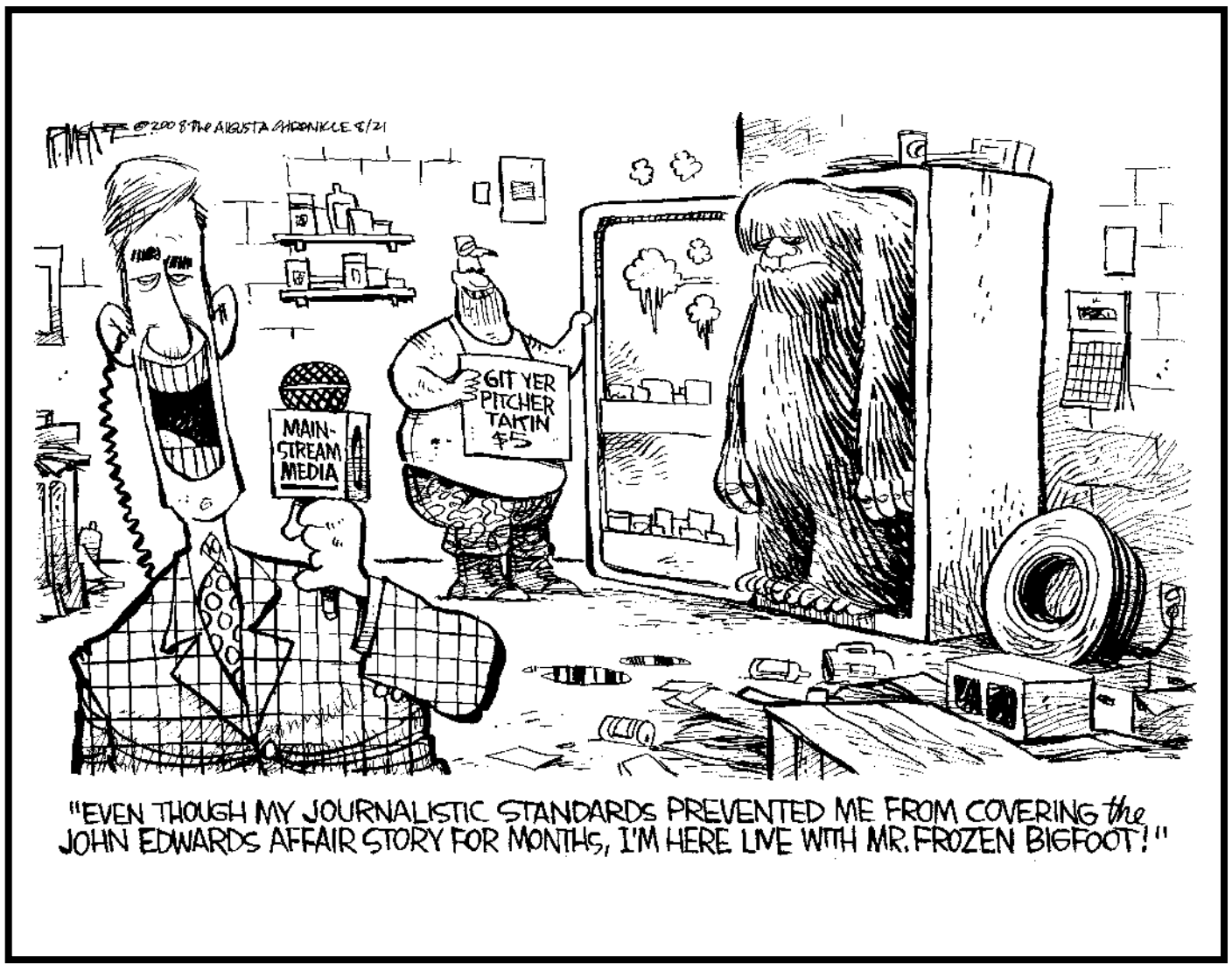
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MAIN-STREAM MEDIA
GIT YER PITCHER TAKIN $5
"EVEN THOUGH MY JOURNALISTIC STANDARDS PREVENTED ME FROM COVERING the JOHN EDWARDS AFFAIR STORY FOR MONTHS, I'M HERE LIVE WITH MR. FROZEN BIGFOOT!"

Science diction: Talking points for the next president

By JOEL STEIN
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Stein is a columnist for the Times*. E-mail Stein at jstein@latimescolumnists.com.*

Our next president is certain to be very smart, but probably not scientist smart. Deep down, both Barack Obama and John McCain know this. That's because sometime in high school, each surely got frustrated by physics or calculus and said to himself, "You know, I really enjoy history."

Which is why they haven't agreed to the demands of Science Debate 2008, a coalition of top universities, Nobel laureates, politicians and—for reasons I hope are unrelated to his role as a paleontologist on "Friends"—David Schwimmer that wants the candidates to formally address science policy.

But Obama and McCain don't have to be afraid of looking dumb. No one is going to ask them to calculate angles or remember trig formulas, I suspect, because that stuff is actually math, not science. I really enjoyed history.

I know they're scared that discussing scientific issues will anger some religious people, corporations and those who dislike being bored. But Americans love a leader who cares about science. The last one we had was Thomas Jefferson, and he got on Mount Rushmore and the nickel.

The winning strategy for Science Debate 2008 is simple: Go science-geek crazy. For eight years, U.S. science policy hasn't been dictated by actual science, so our next president is going to have to overcompensate. To get this across, I've provided some talking points either candidate is welcome to use. They might want to run them by some scientists first.

■ Stem cells: Many Republicans felt that stem cell research was kind of icky because the cells often came from fetal tissue, which, they apparently thought, is usually given some kind of Arlington-Cemetery-style funeral. So you've got to make America comfortable with stem cells. Use them for everything. All those letters from the office of the president could say at the bottom, "Made from 100 percent recycled stem cells." Would it be so crazy to start a state dinner with some kind of stem cell appetizer? And, while I'm not suggesting appointment to an important post like secretary of state, surely there's a small department or ambassadorship that a particularly impressive stem cell could handle.

■ Evolution: Things got so bad in the last eight years that "intelligent design" is being taught in schools. That's why you've got to enlist scientist Schwimmer to find that adorable monkey from the first season of "Friends" and make the monkey vice president. And then allow it to have its own vice president, maybe a dog or a pony. How cute will that be? And the dog/pony will have its own vice president, like a gerbil. And you do it all the way down to a protozoan. Sure, things will get hair-raising if you, the monkey and the dog all die in some horrible "Every Which Way But Loose"-type trucking accident, but Americans will catch on to Darwin's theory fast when that gerbil has just a few hours to evolve into a powerful world leader.

■ Climate change: President Bush bailed on the Kyoto Protocol, spent years denying global warming altogether and then finally said that even if it does exist, it's less important than the economy. Mr. Next-President, sir, you have to get across just how hot it is all the time. Toss those suits. Give news conferences in tank tops and board shorts, all the while hand-fanning yourself like an old Southern lady. Each State of the Union address should begin, "Is it hot enough for you?" which it will be, because you'll demand no air conditioning everywhere you go. Also, it might be cool if you wore shoes actually made of carbon so people see your footprint.

■ Healthcare: Due to some incomprehensible changes in the SCHIP program, fewer poor kids got government-subsidized health insurance. This is too bad, because poor kids have enough problems, namely being poor. You know what would help poor kids and our country at the same time? If we gave them bionic healthcare. You don't need to sell drugs when you can help the military with your jumping and running abilities.

■ Sex education: The federal government has been pushing abstinence-only programs—and funding them with hundreds of millions of dollars. Between that, and thousands of hours spent watching Internet porn, today's teens don't even know that condoms exist. The only way to get across how important and exciting protection can be is with a public high school-wide policy of live sex shows. Charts of fallopian tubes and the vas deferens will just bore the modern student. But two—or, if budgets permit, three—professionals giving a high-quality demonstration on the same stage where "Guys and Dolls" was put on last week will ensure that kids remember that condoms can be a whole lot of fun to put on.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Unconventional politics on TV

By ROGER CATLIN
(c) 2008, The Hartford Courant

They won't have thousands of drummers or lip-synching little girls.

Instead, some nifty balloon drops, no doubt.

But the two parties' political conventions, running back-to-back the next two weeks from Denver and St. Paul, Minn., will represent the Olympics of American politics—and are already being advertised as such by MSNBC—insofar as TV news coverage is concerned.

The three major broadcast networks are dispatching top anchors and political teams to present, for the most part, hour-long reports at 10 nightly, covering the major speeches.

PBS is alone among broadcasters going with gavel-to-gavel nightly coverage. And cable news networks, who have seen boosts in ratings because of increased interest in the presidential campaigns that produced presumptive nominees Barack Obama and John McCain, are going all out once more with a mix of convention-floor reporting and other on-site coverage.

While such an approach may please political junkies, "CBS Evening News" anchor Katie Couric says it's time to remind viewers of the personalities involved and the issues. Unlike journalists, she says, "A lot of people are not completely obsessed with the election, and I think it's time to refresh people's memories."

Speaking over the phone while on vacation Wednesday before the Democratic National Convention begins Monday in Denver, Couric said the 10 p.m. telecasts will largely be made up of the chief speeches of the night, "and time restrictions are pretty obvious in terms of 'Evening News.' "

That's why she's starting, for the first time, an Internet-only Web cast nightly at 11 on CBSNews.com and CNET.com. at both conventions.

"I'm really excited about it," Couric says of the webcast. "It will be fun and liberating."

And it will be closer to her vision of the "CBS Evening News" when she took over in 2005.

"I definitely came over with the notion of, not revolutionizing evening news, but changing it up some and making it less formulaic," she says. The program has since "gone back to a much more traditional newscast, which is perhaps what longtime viewers at that particular hour are interested in," she said.

In the Web cast, she and members of her political team, led by Jeff Greenfield and Bob Schieffer, will discuss the day's events in a relaxed style.

"I think a Web audience is much more used to a more unvarnished, casual approach," Couric says. "It's quite liberating in the way that you present news and information in a style that's more conversational and loosey-goosey, if you will."

And there will be plenty to talk about, Greenfield told reporters.

"In both conventions, I would guess roughly half the delegates wanted somebody else," he said. So special attention will be paid, he said, to "whether or not those delegates express unhappiness or lack of enthusiasm" with what goes on.

Once, so little went on at a political convention that the anchor of ABC's "Nightline" famously walked out.

"In 1996, I walked out of the Republican convention in San Diego, pointing out that it was really nothing much more than a picture show and there wasn't any news happening," Ted Koppel said via satellite at a press tour, where he was representing his latest client, "BBC World News America," for which he'll be providing political analysis. "I don't think anyone can make that observation about this year. This has been one of the most remarkable political years we've ever seen."

Chris Wallace of Fox News agrees. "First of all, you're going to have John McCain trying to become the oldest person ever to be elected to a first term as president, who spent 5 1/2 years as a prisoner of war in a camp, who was left for dead last year when his campaign basically lost all of its staff, all of its money, all of its organization, and through a triumph of human determination and grit, he's going to go out there on the stage and receive the Republican nomination.

'And at this point, despite all the talk and hype about Obama, the fact is if you believe the polls, it's basically a dead heat. I don't think we've had a more dramatic election in recent years in terms of the difference on issues," Wallace says. "I don't think we're going to have any problem getting people to want to watch it."

That makes it all the more sad that NBC and its cable offshoot MSNBC, which has been positioning itself as a nearly all-politics news network, will be without Tim Russert, the network's Washington bureau chief and "Meet the Press" host who died of a heart attack June 13.

Says NBC News chief Steve Capus, Russert "spent an awful lot of time talking about this incredible story that's playing out for us. And Tim had this incredible boyish enthusiasm about this campaign in particular. And it's a real tragedy not to have Tim here."

As it did in 2004, CNN plans to do most of its reporting outside the "hermetically sealed anchor booth," says Washington Bureau Chief David Bohrman. Cable news will be able to provide more than just the major speeches the networks will be covering at 10 p.m.

CNN anchor Wolf Blitzer says, "We're not going to simply be stenographers and just allow all the speeches to go on without any interruption. When there's something interesting happening, when somebody interesting is speaking, we'll take that live, but we're not going to go overboard."

The main problem for all the networks is that the two conventions will run back to back.

"The Olympics have compressed the conventions together, and we pretty much have to build two separate operations," said CNN's Bohrman.

It's especially hard on small organizations covering the conventions, such as Comedy Central's "The Daily Show With Jon Stewart."

"It takes everything we have to travel the show to one city," Stewart said in a June interview. "We've never traveled two weeks in a row. It will be very fun and everything but quite possibly we'll not be able to do it."

How to twist Russia's arm: Let it join NATO

By ANDREW MEIER
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Meier is a former Moscow correspondent for Time *magazine and the author of the new book,* The Lost Spy: An American in Stalin's Secret Service.

Anti-Russian fervor threatens to hit fever pitch in Washington, D.C., this week. In the wake of Russia's military incursion into Georgia, Barack Obama is suddenly doing his best to parrot John McCain's Russophobia. Indeed, the cries to shove Moscow back into the cold are coming from both sides of the aisle: Kick Russia out of the G-8, lock it out of the European Union and the World Trade Organization and, by all means, boycott Vladimir Putin's pet project, Sochi 2014—the Winter Olympics slated for a Black Sea venue a short drive from the disputed territory of Abkhazia. On Tuesday, NATO said that continuing normal relations with Russia was impossible and moved to all but scrap the NATO-Russia Council.

Let no one be deceived: Putin has drawn a dangerous new line. Russian troops have trespassed into a sovereign nation for the first time since the dissolution of the Soviet Union. But all such retributive Western campaigns are misguided and, like every attempt to twist Russian arms since the end of the U.S.S.R., sure to backfire.

There's really only one lever left: Invite Russia to join NATO.

This is not a new idea. Once upon a time, it was openly entertained in diplomatic circles East and West. In late 1991, the final days of the U.S.S.R,, Boris Yeltsin stunned a NATO meeting by sending a letter with this unilateral declaration: "Today we are raising a question of Russia's membership in NATO." "A long-term political aim," Yeltsin called it then, as he threw down the gauntlet before the West. NATO ministers, as Tom Friedman reported for The New York Times at the time, were "too taken aback . . . to give any coherent response." In the ensuing years, as Yeltsin with characteristic bravura continued to raise the prospect, the West kept fumbling for a reply.

Even Putin, in his first days in the Kremlin, seized on the issue. In March 2000, in his first interview with a foreign reporter—the BBC's David Frost—Putin shocked critics and fans alike, saying, "We believe we can talk about more profound integration with NATO, but only if Russia is regarded as an equal partner." Asked outright if Russia could join NATO, Putin shot back: "I do not see why not." He also added a dark warning: Any NATO attempt to exclude Russia from the debate over the alliance's eastward expansion would only provoke "opposition."

Give him points for honesty.

The end of the U.S.S.R. opened an era of unprecedented promise. But while Russians openly yearned for closer ties, the West only pushed back—expanding NATO into former Warsaw Pact countries and former Soviet states. More recently, the U.S. has moved to station elements of a missile defense system, what Russians still call with dread "Star Wars," in Russia's back yard—in the Czech Republic and Poland.

Meantime, successive U.S. administrations have steadily reduced U.S.-Russian relations to Washington's lowest common denominator: our need for non-Arab oil and our need for help in constraining two of Russia's closest diplomatic and trading partners, Iran and North Korea. When it came to the war in Iraq, we asked for Russia's support. But then we shut it out of all oil and reconstruction contracts.

Amid the talk now in vogue of a "new cold war," we are adrift in a sea of lost opportunities. This week, ominous reports have surfaced: that Vice President Dick Cheney's office has pushed for several months to increase military aid to Georgia—in particular, the sale of hand-held anti-aircraft weapons—at a time when Russia has been flying Tu-95 Bear H bombers, capable of bearing cruise missiles, near the coast of Alaska.

Russia is moving to re-establish its hegemony over its neighbors, some will say. Yes, it is true. But that is all the more reason to engage, not to chastise. After all, where is America's leverage? Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, we are told, interrupted her holiday and made more than 90 phone calls to try to mediate the crisis in Georgia. President Bush "demanded" that Russian troops leave. To what effect? Russia's tanks have rolled on.

But Americans should not fear Russian expansionism. The Russians are already here.

Only 10 years ago, Russia defaulted on $40 billion in bonds and cut its umbilical cord to the global capital markets. But today, Moscow, awash in oil money, is out to enhance Russian prowess on the global stage, not militarily but economically. It's not only estates in Aspen that the Russian oligarchs have scooped up. The list of Russian takeovers is long and growing. Ask the Wall Street bankers who have reaped hundreds of millions of dollars in the last year alone. Ask the folks at Oregon Steel in Portland and Colorado, Rouge Steel in Detroit and Stillwater Mining in Montana—their paychecks now come from Russian oligarchs.

At some point between Putin's last day as president and the announcement this year that Moscow leads the world in billionaires, a new strategy emerged. "The Kremlin plan," the oligarchs call it. Go forth and multiply, Putin told Russia's business titans. His puppet president, Dmitri Medvedev, in his first meeting before the oligarchs last spring, laid out the terms of the bargain: Keep one foot in the motherland but expand your portfolios and, above all, extend Russia's reach abroad.

What does Russia want? Just a couple of tiny restive provinces pried away from Georgia? Hardly.

In Putin's Russia, muscle—be it tanks or banks—rules. Gazprom, the state giant that controls at least 25 percent of Europe's natural gas supply, hungers to enter the U.S. market. So do a raft of Russian oil giants and those who control the country's sovereign wealth funds, flush with at least $157 billion in oil money. What should the West do? Many in Washington and on Wall Street will whisper the obvious reply: Bring them in. "If our goal all these years, since the Soviet breakup, has been 'Get them to play by our rules,' " one former high-ranking national security aide in the Bush and Clinton administrations told me recently, "what better way to do it?"

So too on the diplomatic front. Now is the time, before the conflagration in the Caucasus spreads, to reverse course and embrace Russia more tightly than ever.

In 1991, when the world was giddy with expectation, a NATO foreign minister answered Yeltsin's talk of joining NATO with a fearful prediction. "If you do it for Russia," said the Belgian foreign minister, "you also have to do it for the other republics." How true. "For NATO," he added, "there is a danger of dilution." One need not look for long at the smoldering fires in Georgia to recognize our own myopia and to see where the greater danger lies.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. South winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

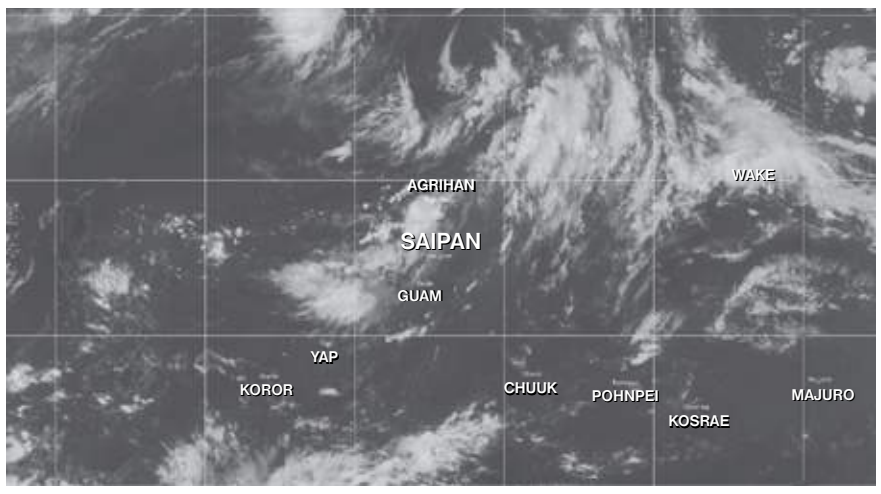
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Palau	Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Thundershowers	▲86	▼72
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲58	▼53
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼68
Hong Kong	Rain	▲86	▼79
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼76
London	Partly Sunny	▲68	▼58
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲82	▼66
Manila	Cloudy	▲90	▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲57	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼76
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼68
Osaka	Showers	▲85	▼70
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲74	▼51
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼67
Rome	Cloudy	▲86	▼63
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲78	▼58
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲72	▼58
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼65
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	▲80	▼73
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼70

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:45PM, SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends eastward from a weak circulation centered east of the Philippines near 13N131E to north of Guam at 19N144E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring near the trough axis north of Yap and Guam within an area bounded by a line from 14N135E to 19N147E to 11N141E back to 14N135E. Converging south winds combining with upper-level divergence are producing widely scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of the Marianas from 20N to 25N between 150E and 159E.Trade wind convergence coupling with upper-level divergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 100 miles of a line from 4N150E to to EQ138E. This area is southwest of Chuuk and well south of Koror, Yap and Guam. An upper-level trough stretches westward from 22N180 to an upper low centered northeast of Wake Island at 23N173E to 27N166E. The upper level low is reflected in the lower levels as a weak surface trough. These systems and upper-level divergence are combining to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from 20N to 25N from 161E to 170E between 20N and 25N and within 50 miles of a line from 21N170E to 16N176E. This area extends northwest north and northeast of Wake Island.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
7:18AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
2:36PM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
7:04PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
11:37PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:04AM	6:35 PM
Monday	6:04AM	6:34 PM
Tuesday	6:04AM	6:33 PM
Wednesday	6:04AM	6:33 PM
Thursday	6:04AM	6:32 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today		12:34AM
Monday	12:02AM	1:38PM
Tuesday	1:03AM	2:41PM
Wednesday	2:08AM	3:39PM
Thursday	3:12AM	4:32PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $182. Off-island subscription rate is $376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio

Sunday		
	9am	Sunday school
	10am	Regular worship
	6pm	worship
Wednesday		
	7pm	worship

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries

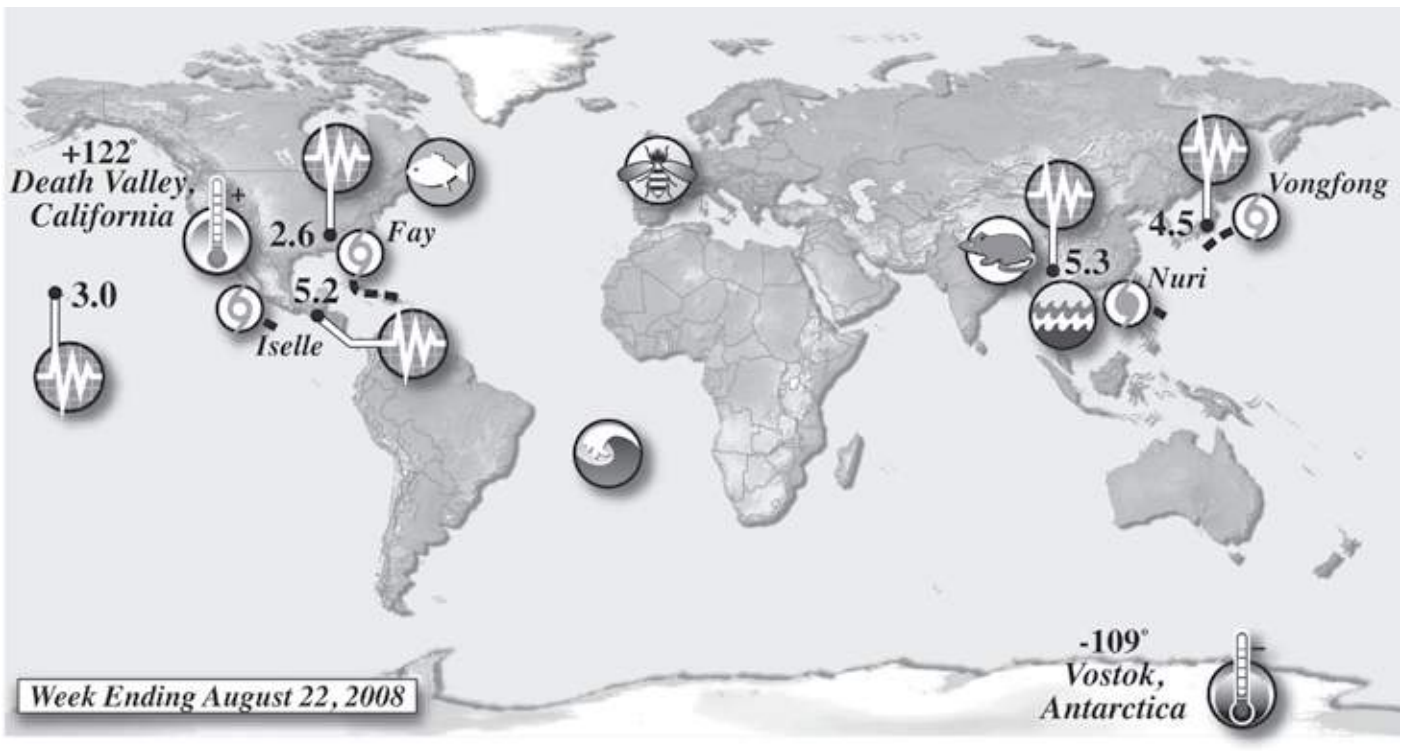
Sunday	5:30am-6:30am	
Morning prayer		
	7am-9am	English service
	7am-9am	Sunday school
	10am-12noon	English service,
Koblerville		
Wednesday	7pm-9pm	Prayer meeting
Saturday	7pm-9pm	Tagalog service

Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By STEVE NEWMAN



Wild Salmon Rebound

Scientists and fishermen alike are startled and delighted by a resurgence of wild Atlantic salmon this summer from Labrador to the coast of Maine. "People are talking about runs they haven't seen for a decade or more," Gerald Chaput, a biologist with Canada's Fisheries Department, told The Canadian Press. While no one can say why more young salmon, grilse, are returning to spawn in the region's rivers, one fisheries expert says warmer ocean temperatures, successful hook-and-release programs and fishing restrictions could be factors. About 70 monitoring sites have reported some of the best returns of grilse in many years, but sightings of older salmon have not increased. However, experts say that the survival and return of young salmon this summer probably means that larger fish will arrive to spawn next year.

Ocean 'Dead Zones'

Maritime "dead zones" have expanded steadily over the past half-century, now creating environments where marine life cannot survive in 400 coastal areas of the world. Writing in the journal Science, researchers from Virginia's College of William and Mary and Gothenburg University in Sweden said that the number of oxygen-depleted areas of the sea has doubled every 10 years since the 1960s. "The formation of dead zones has been exacerbated by the increase in (pollution) ... fueled by riverine runoff of fertilizers and the burning of fossil fuels," the study said. Lead author Robert J. Diaz noted that dead zones have often formed in what were once prime fishing grounds. Lack of oxygen seasonally wipes out fish in the Gulf of Mexico, Baltic Sea and Chesapeake Bay.

A Mekong Record

Southeast Asia's famed Mekong River has risen to a level higher than ever measured before in parts of northern Thailand, inundating homes and farmland for hundreds of miles. Similar inundations have also occurred in adjacent areas of Laos. Officials at the Mekong River Commission said the current flooding is due to abnormally high runoff from northern stretches of the river basin, combined with torrential rainfall caused by Tropical Storm Kammuri on Aug. 9 to 11. As floodwaters moved downstream, Cambodia and southern Vietnam warned residents in some areas to move to higher ground along with their livestock.

Hive Hazard

An ongoing spell of damp weather in northwestern France appears to be the reason a female beekeeper was left in a coma after being stung by about 100 bees. Quest-France reports that the unidentified 58-year-old woman was attacked while attempting to collect honey from her hives in the Brittany village of Kernevel. Local beekeeper Valerie Tygreat told Agence France Presse that the bees were probably being defensive of their hives due to recent inclement conditions that prevented them from gathering pollen.

Earthquakes

A moderate quake along the China-Myanmar border wrecked many homes near the epicenter in China's Yunnan province, but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

■ Earth movements were also felt in metropolitan Tokyo, the Hawaiian island of Oahu, southwestern Guatemala and northwest Alabama.

Tropical Cyclones

Landslides triggered by Typhoon Nuri's torrential rains killed seven people in the northern Philippines, many of whom perished when their houses were buried in mud. The storm skirted northern Luzon Island before becoming even more powerful while taking aim on China's Guangdong coast late in the week.

■ Tropical Storm Fay killed at least 50 people as it formed over Haiti. The storm never attained hurricane force, but it was strong enough to rip roofs off homes and cause considerable flooding across Florida.

■ Tropical Storm Iselle formed briefly off western Mexico, and Tropical Storm Vongfong passed just to the east of Japan.

Let Them Eat Rat

An official in one of India's most impoverished states has proposed easing hunger among the masses by encouraging them to eat rat as a source of protein. "Rats have almost no bones and are quite rich in nutrition. People at large don't know this cuisine fact, but gradually they are catching up," said Vijay Prakash, principal secretary of Bihar state's welfare department. He told reporters that nearly 50 percent of India's grain stocks is eaten by the rodents in fields or warehouses. Prakash said hunting and eating rats would battle soaring food prices by reducing such losses. Rats are already eaten by some members of Bihar's extremely poor Musahar community. The scheme to promote rat snacks among the more affluent includes providing restaurants and hotels with recipes to make rat eating a fine-dining experience.

Distributed by: Universal Press Syndicate
www.earthweek.com
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OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Wis. woman arrested, booked over library fines

GRAFTON, Wis. (AP)—A Grafton woman has been arrested and booked for failing to pay her library fines. Heidi Dalibor, 20, told the News Graphic in Cedarburg she ignored the library's calls and letters as well as a notice to appear in court. Still, she was surprised when officers with a warrant knocked on her door, cuffed her and took her to the police station to be fingerprinted and photographed. Police Capt. Joe Gabrish saied officers follow the same procedure with every warrant. The incident cost Dalibor about $30 for the overdue paperbacks "White Oleander" and "Angels and Demons" and her mother nearly $172 to get her out of custody.

Man arrested just 12 hours after release from jail

CLOVERDALE, Ind. (AP)—A 22-year-old man was back behind bars about 12 hours after he was released from jail, accused of stealing a car and beer and leading police on a high-speed chase. Darren E. Roberts was released from the Sullivan County Jail Tuesday afternoon after competing his sentence for auto theft. But Indiana State Police say that early Wednesday morning, Roberts stole a 2004 red Ford Mustang in Linton, then drove to a gas station in Cloverdale where he allegedly stole some beer and fled. Police chased the red Mustang at speeds of up to 105 mph on Interstate 70, until the car spun out and Roberts surrendered. He's now being held in the Putnam County Jail without bond on a variety of charges.

Fla. deputies Taser Plop-Plop the unruly emu

PANAMA CITY, Fla. (AP)—Bay County Sheriff's deputies were forced to use a Taser to subdue an escaped emu named Plop-Plop. The large female bird escaped from a farm last weekend and on Monday, she holed up with some horses and goats in a pen. When deputies arrived, the emu "went kind of crazy," said Sheriff's deputy Randolph Grob. The deputies didn't want the bird to hurt itself or them, so the used the Taser stun gun to immobilize Plop-Plop. The emu was brought to the Bay County Animal Control Center, where she has made a full recovery. The bird's owner is expected to take her home soon.

Good Housekeeping

THE WASHINGTON POST

Shade trellises have open roofs, which make a garden more interesting by showcasing the plants on them.

Seeking shelter in your garden

By JOEL M. LERNER, APLD
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Gardens existed before gardeners, but gardeners can claim credit for the idea of shelters and trellises, structures that allow us to come closer to and enjoy our plants more in their natural setting.

There is a wide variety of choices in garden shelters. This is a great time of year to focus on shelters and outdoor garden structures. In a few weeks, when temperatures begin to drop, your attention will turn back to fall garden chores and away from structural aspects of the garden.

In essence, any structure in the garden with beams or a roof is a shelter. Each type has a name. There are arbors, belvederes, bowers, casinos, gazebos, loggias, pergolas, porticos, shade trellises, screened-in porches, summer houses and more, but there is a lot of overlap in terminology.

OPEN-ROOF STRUCTURES

Arbors, pergolas and shade trellises all have open roofs. An arbor consists of open rafters or lattice overhead, often designed as a support for vines or trained plants. A shade trellis sometimes has one wall that can serve as screening or wind protection or can attach to a house. Pergolas are a more formal structure, generally having three walls and pillars for support along an open front. Any of these will add interest and will be attractive with plants trained on it.

CONTACT INFO

Here are some national firms to contact:
Amish Country Gazebos, www.amishgazebos.com, 800-700-1777;
Absolutely Amish, www.absolutelyamish.com, 888-216-4576;
Vixen Hill, www.vixenhill.com, 800-423-2766;
Walpole Woodworkers, www.walpolewoodworkers.com, 800-343-6948;
Dalton Pavilions, www.daltonpavilions.com, 800-532-5866;
Leisure Woods, www.leisure-woods.com, 888-442-9326.

Shelters such as belvederes, gazebos or bowers are most effective when completely separated from the house. Construct such a shelter in a private or separate part of the garden to create the feeling that you are getting away from your daily world.

THE WASHINGTON POST

The gazebo was conceived for English gardens as a retreat with a view.

SOLID-ROOF STRUCTURES

Belvederes, gazebos, loggias and porticos are open-sided structures with solid roofs for protection against the elements. The term belvedere is applicable to any garden shelter sited where it commands an outstanding vista. The gazebo was developed for English gardens. The name is a derivation of a combination of English and Latin words meaning, "I shall gaze," and it was built to be a retreat with a view. A loggia is a covered open area overlooking a courtyard. Generally attached to a house, porticos are covered promenades. They were popularly used around pools in the Moorish-style gardens of Spain and decorated with mosaic tiles, carved pillars, fountains and formal rows of shrubs.

ENCLOSED GARDEN STRUCTURES

Bowers, casinos and screened-in porches are shelters that can function as summer houses or guest lodgings. A bower is a rustic structure often covered with branches and vines twined together. It could be used in a woodland garden or other natural setting. The casino was introduced in Italian landscape designs as formal entries onto an estate. Casinos were sculpturally very ornate. From the casino, which often doubled as guest quarters, visitors could enter the garden. The main house was usually located up a level on the other side of the garden. For the American-style garden shelter, screened-in porches make eating and spending time outdoors a pleasure without the annoyance of insects and inclement weather.

Some of the names of these outdoor structures may sound familiar and help you form an immediate mental picture of one that might work for you. Others might spark an idea of how you can incorporate a structure to add more interest to your landscape. Consider a structure that you will use often and that will create comfort and enjoyment for you and your guests.

For more ideas, go to public gardens, or the local library for gardening and architectural books and magazines. Architectural Digest, Country Living Gardener and Fine Gardening are just a few magazines with articles and ads for a variety of structures.

You can hire a licensed architect or landscape architect if you would rather have a custom-designed structure. The professional you hire should provide you with a ready-to-build drawing of your concept with dimensions that meet your needs.

Garden shelters should meet certain size requirements to ensure comfort. Here are some guidelines to ensure your shelter fits human proportions. Total area: 50 square feet per person. Roof: eight feet to beams, more if design requires. Doorway: 32-inch minimum. Table height: 29 to 31 inches. Seating: 17 to 20 inches. Steps, six-inch riser, 14-inch tread.

If you have the opportunity to choose the location for your garden structure, a lovely orientation would be slightly elevated on a southeastern slope away from the property's lowest point.

The structure's placement depends on how you plan to use it. It's not necessary to attach it to the house, but I like to design structures close enough to a house to create a smooth indoor/outdoor relationship. A casino, patio, pergola, porch or shade trellis designed to match your existing architecture will integrate the structure with your property, even if it's across the garden.

Shelters such as belvederes, gazebos or bowers are most effective when completely separated from the house. Construct such a shelter in a private or separate part of the garden to create the feeling that you are getting away from your daily world. The design of these types of structures can be completely independent of the landscape design surrounding your house to create this effect.

Whether close to the house or not, a garden shelter can give the landscape a more designed look. Often the structure doubles as a trellis for training plants, as is the case with arbors and pergolas.

Trellises are a network of crossed strips that form a geometric pattern. A separate trellis used with the shelter can further enhance privacy and enclosure, and create more interest and beauty. Companies that handle pre-built ornamental landscape structures will usually sell or build trellises.

If you are training large plants that develop heavy wood, you will need strong supports, such as steel pipe and heavy lumber. A pergola, arbor or shade trellis can be the perfect plant support in this situation.

There are many prefabricated and custom-built garden shelters available in a wide selection of materials. Visit garden and home improvement centers, get some catalogs or go on the Internet. Also check the Yellow Pages for home improvement contractors, outdoor furniture suppliers and companies listed under "sheds."

Lerner is president of Environmental Design in Capitol View Park, Md., and author of Anyone Can Landscape (Ball 2001). Contact him through his Web site, www.gardenlerner.com.

Ready, set, declutter: Organizing the husband

By LIZ SEYMOUR
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Seventh of a nine-part series

WASHINGTON—I've spent the past 10 weeks sorting through the piles of clutter in my very messy attic with Caitlin Shear, a professional organizer with A Sorted Affair in Fairfax, Va. Throughout the process, my husband, Bob, has been wary and even a bit skeptical.

Every Friday morning he can hear a continuous two-hour round of laughter from our home's third floor and wonders what kind of hen party is going on up there. He doesn't seem to understand why certain items from the attic, such as never-used teacups and saucers, have found a new home in the kitchen. "Isn't that why we have an attic" he asked, "to store stuff we don't really use so it doesn't clutter up the rest of the house?"

At some points during these decluttering sessions, Bob would come up, look around and utter some hollow compliment about how much better the place looks, and then race off to go to work.

Now that Caitlin and I are almost done, it is Bob's turn to sift through the remaining rubble.

One day last week, I was the one who slipped out to work while Caitlin and Bob sorted through a large pile of obsolete electronics and technology, newspaper clippings, a collection of more than 600 record albums, cassettes and CDs, and personal papers from a longer-than-usual bachelorhood.

When I returned home that evening and sneaked upstairs to see what they'd accomplished, I was surprised and delighted by the progress. His attic piles had thinned considerably, split between donations and trash.

And I think they learned a lot about each other.

Caitlin learned that Bob's collections concentrated on two subjects: music and the 1995 Detroit newspaper strike. We both lost our reporting jobs in that strike, but it was particularly painful for Bob, who grew up in Detroit.

During the strike, he was on the bargaining committee for the Newspaper Guild, which represents most newsroom employees, and a picket-line captain. He amassed one of the only archives of the strike, including newsletters, buttons, T-shirts, posters and two nearly complete sets of the Detroit Sunday Journal, a newspaper published by striking newsroom employees.

This stuff fills about five boxes in the attic, and Caitlin is concerned that we are not preserving it properly. She recommends acid-free archival newspaper boxes for the Sunday Journals and wonders whether Bob will consider donating the entire archive to a journalism school or related think tank.

"I would donate it if it went someplace where it might be accessible," he told me later, "or if I thought it might be of any value to someone who might want to use it or look at it." Until that happens, if it happens, he'd like to keep it but does not want to spend the money on the archival newspaper boxes.

Caitlin also suggested transforming the 15 strike-related T-shirts into a quilt and framing one or two of the picket signs, two ideas that Bob liked, to my surprise.

She made less progress on paring down his extensive music collection.

Bob remains quite annoyed that the formats have changed from album (and eight-track) to cassette to CD and now to digital. I'm sure we are the only house on the block without an iPod. In a perfect world, he would like a music room on the main floor of our house, to store all of this music and the many components needed to listen to it. "Meanwhile, who knows?" he said, deciding to keep all of it up in the attic. For now.

This sounds like Bob did not get rid of anything, but that's not true. Nearly a dozen old computers, printers, stereo components and other electronics were donated to Goodwill. There were also four more trash bags filled with paper, including newspaper clippings, notes from stories he wrote decades ago and even a Rolodex from his reporting days in Mississippi 25 years ago. He was embarrassed he had held onto it for so long.

"It reflects a piece of your life, so you hang onto it," he said. "I've come across them before and thought, `I'm never gonna need these phone numbers again,' but so what? It's just a small thing. I'll keep it. But I've never actually tripped down that memory lane, so what's the point of keeping it?"

He had not been looking forward to going through his stuff with Caitlin because he felt like he didn't have the time. But he found several gems while sorting through his papers, including a paper plate where he'd written all the old addresses his father had as a child growing up in Detroit; and some bills from the Marriott World Trade Center, where we spent our wedding night. The hotel was destroyed on Sept. 11, 2001.

He said Caitlin showered him with questions during the two-hour session, just as she does to me, asking, "What exactly is this? And why exactly did you save it?" He would be a third of the way through one box, and she'd drag over another to politely nudge him along.

"It's our own fault we got to this point," he told me. "But it definitely makes more sense to have someone to help you."

Now that Caitlin and I are almost done, it is Bob's turn to sift through the remaining rubble.

KITCHEN MAGIC

Summer Plum Tart

A satisfying finish to a summer meal—fresh, sweet plums in a delicious crumb crust topped with crushed gingersnaps.

COOK: 30 minutes
TOTAL: 40 minutes
MAKES: 12 servings

Fresh, sweet plums in a delicious crumb crust.

1/2 cup sugar
3 tablespoons cornstarch
1 pinch salt
2 pound (about 6 medium) ripe purple or red plums, unpeeled, each cut into 8 wedges
6 (about 1/3 cup) gingersnap cookies, coarsely crumbled

1. Prepare and bake Crumb Crust as recipe directs for 9-inch tart pan with removable bottom using gingersnap cookies; cool.

2. In 3-quart saucepan, stir sugar, cornstarch, salt and 1/3 cup cold water until blended. Add plum wedges, stirring to coat evenly.

3. Heat plum mixture to boiling over medium-high heat; boil 2 minutes, stirring. Remove saucepan from heat.

4. Spoon hot plum mixture into cooled crust. Refrigerate until well-chilled, about 3 hours. Sprinkle with crumbled gingersnap cookies just before serving.

Crumb Crust

This simple cookie-crumb crust can be made with graham crackers, gingersnaps or vanilla wafers. We suggest which crust is most compatible with each filling, but feel free to change the crust to suit your taste.

1 1/2 cups fine cookie crumbs, such as graham cracker, gingersnap or vanilla wafer. (See note below.)
2 tablespoons sugar
5 tablespoons margarine or butter, melted

1. Preheat oven to 375 F. In medium bowl, with fork, stir crumbs and sugar with melted margarine or butter until evenly blended and moistened. With hand, press mixture onto bottom and up side of 9-inch pie plate or 9-inch tart pan with removable bottom.

2. Bake crust 8 to 10 minutes. Cool on wire rack.

NOTE: To get 1 1/2 cups crumbs, you will need 10 graham crackers (5 by 2 1/2-inches each), about 30 gingersnaps or about 45 vanilla wafers.

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Flashing helps keep roof watertight

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
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Q: Some kind of critter, or maybe a debris strike, bent back and heavily damaged some of the metal coverings around the base of my home's chimney. I can't get it to bend back smoothly. Does it have to be replaced?—George L., Hartford, Conn.

A: Replacement is the best way to ensure a tightly sealed joint. Roof flashing is important because these strips of metal help prevent rainwater from entering the seams where roof elements meet and direct that water away to the gutter system. Damage to this material can lead to leaky roofs and water damage inside the home, so maintaining it is important.

In the case of chimney flashing, the metal strips are bent inward to match the corner angle between the chimney base and the roof, and are "stepped" downward, one overlapping the next, so water sluices away from the joint.

Use the same type of metal as the original when replacing flashing—dissimilar metals will corrode where they meet. And while aluminum is a common flashing material, chimney flashing is (or should be) either galvanized steel or copper, which resist corrosion from the lime in the chimney mortar. Steel or copper sheet metal is quite difficult to cut and bend to the correct angle of the roof, so look for a step flashing kit at the home improvement store, or consider ordering pre-bent step flashing (also called "shingle tins") from a sheet metal shop or a roofing company.

To replace the damaged flashing, bend up any flashing that covers it and cut through roofing cement seals with a utility knife. Pull shingles away from the flashing base. Remove the damaged flashing (a pry bar helps here). Ensure the new flashing fits, and then apply roofing cement to the edges that will contact the chimney and roof. Slip it into place, and drive one roofing nail downward into the roof deck (not into the chimney). Reposition the shingles and overlapping flashing, and reseal with roofing cement.

HOME TIP: Gobs of roofing cement around a chimney base or other roof joint isn't normal—the material is probably covering up bigger damage. Inspect such areas and make full repairs where necessary.

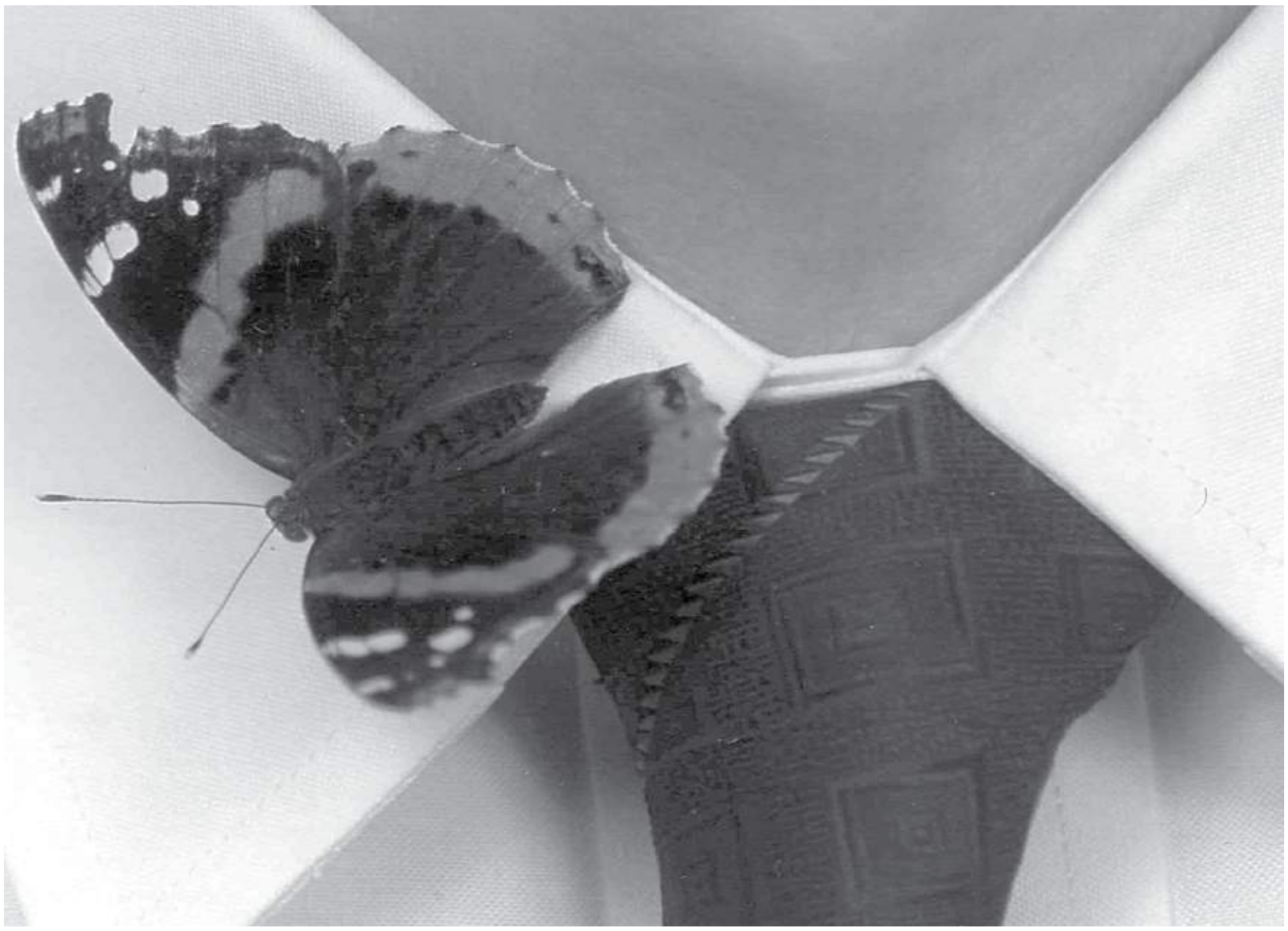
Send questions or home-repair tips to homeguru2000@hotmail.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

The Good Life

The Butterfly Effect

By DAN SOUTHERLAND
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Editor's Note: Southerland, executive editor of Radio Free Asia, is a former reporter and Beijing bureau chief for The Washington Post.



THE WASHINGTON POST

Poppy, a red admiral butterfly, photographed on the author's collar at MotoPhoto in downtown Washington. A neighbor pronounced the butterfly a reincarnation. It was someone from a past life who had come to visit.

WASHINGTON—In July last year, a butterfly landed on my shoulder while I was taking a break from my office for a few minutes one afternoon to talk business with a colleague. I was sure the butterfly would soon fly off. We were walking through an L Street canyon near 19th Street that was surrounded by granite, concrete and glass. I had never seen a butterfly in this part of the city before. Now I had one clinging to me. It migrated to my shirt collar and stayed there.

After half an hour or so, with my new friend still perched on me, I decided that I should have a picture taken to record the butterfly's remarkable arrival out of nowhere. So we ducked into a nearby MotoPhoto shop. The gentleman running the photo shop seemed to find nothing unusual about a man walking around with a butterfly on his collar and began clicking away with his camera. I thought that his flash would scare the butterfly away, but my little pal stayed put.

I decided to get the butterfly something to eat at the Smith & Wollensky steakhouse across the street. My colleague Catherine Antoine and I plunged into the rush-hour traffic on 19th, slipping between cars that were jammed together waiting for the light to change. Neither the noise nor the fumes seemed to bother the butterfly.

I asked the waiter standing outside the door of the steakhouse to find a corner table for "me, my colleague and the butterfly."

"Right away, sir," responded the waiter, acting as if there was nothing extraordinary about a butterfly dropping in at a steakhouse. We ordered calamari and two glasses of pinot noir, and I asked the waiter to get something for the butterfly.

The waiter, Emad Salha, returned with Erika Kowkabi, the restaurant's night manager, who said that they had conducted a Google search that showed butterflies like overripe fruit. They would prepare some chopped strawberries for the little guy, she said. Restaurant manager Phil McMaster also showed up to see whether he could be of assistance. On the wall behind us, portraits of George Washington and Ben Franklin looked down on the scene. The butterfly took no interest in the strawberries, and as I took out my credit card he left my shoulder for the first time, landing on the window blinds next to the table. Catherine used her office identification card to coax the butterfly back to my shoulder.

It was dawning on me that I knew nothing about butterflies. My new friend's upper forewings sported reddish orange bands set against a black-and-brown background. He measured a little more than two inches from wingtip to wingtip.

A couple from Austin, Texas, sitting with their son at a neighboring table, enjoyed listening to our conversation about the butterfly, and we exchanged pleasantries. It occurred to me that a butterfly could bring out the best in people, even in this unlikely setting of dark wood, brass trim and rib-eye steaks.

I somehow lost my sense of time. We ended up discussing Middle East politics with Emad, our Palestinian-American waiter. Finally I took note of the time again. We had spent nearly two hours with a butterfly in downtown Washington.

I paid the bill at 5:52 p.m. (I've kept the receipt as a souvenir) and decided I might as well call it a day and head home—with the butterfly. I phoned my wife, Muriel, to ask her to put off the movie she had planned to go to and wait for me, because I'd be bringing a butterfly home.

Home-bound

At 19th and M, with the butterfly on my shoulder, I hailed a cab. I immediately asked the driver to put up the windows so the butterfly wouldn't fly out. He quickly glanced back at me as though I must be slightly crazy but soon got used to the idea of chauffeuring a butterfly. During the cab ride, the butterfly stayed on my shoulder at first but then shifted to the middle of my necktie. We arrived at my home near Glen Echo, Md., and the Potomac River in about 30 minutes.

Muriel and our 20-year-old daughter, Shauna, were waiting when the cab drove up. I exited the car—very slowly—and took the butterfly straight to the empty birdbath in front of our house. Somehow we got the butterfly into the birdbath and brought him some chopped bananas and bright red and purple salvia from the garden. After clutching at each of the flowers, he settled on one bunch and embraced it.

I decided to call in witnesses, two of our most spiritually oriented neighbors, Gina Di Medio Marrazza and Elizabeth Sammis, to see the butterfly.

Gina immediately pronounced the butterfly a reincarnation. It was someone from a past life who had come to visit. "He's trying to tell you something," she said.

Liz had a more practical explanation. "This is a message to you, Dan," she said. "It's telling you to slow down. Come home earlier. Pay attention to what's really important in life."

Shortly after 8 p.m., with the light fading, we decided to leave the butterfly to the birdbath and our garden, which happened to be full of such butterfly-friendly plants as coreopsis, phlox, lilies, salvia, coneflowers and a single butterfly bush. We figured that we'd just had an amazing experience, and now it was over.

'I began paying a lot more respect to all insects. Poppy taught me how little we know about these small creatures. He didn't completely change my life, but he certainly enhanced my ability to question.'

On July 11, the day after I met the butterfly, I returned home early. Muriel picked me up at the bus stop at 7:15 p.m. A few minutes later, I was trudging up the steps to the front door when Muriel almost shouted, "He's back!"

"I saw him in the air," she said. "He was hovering over the birdbath."

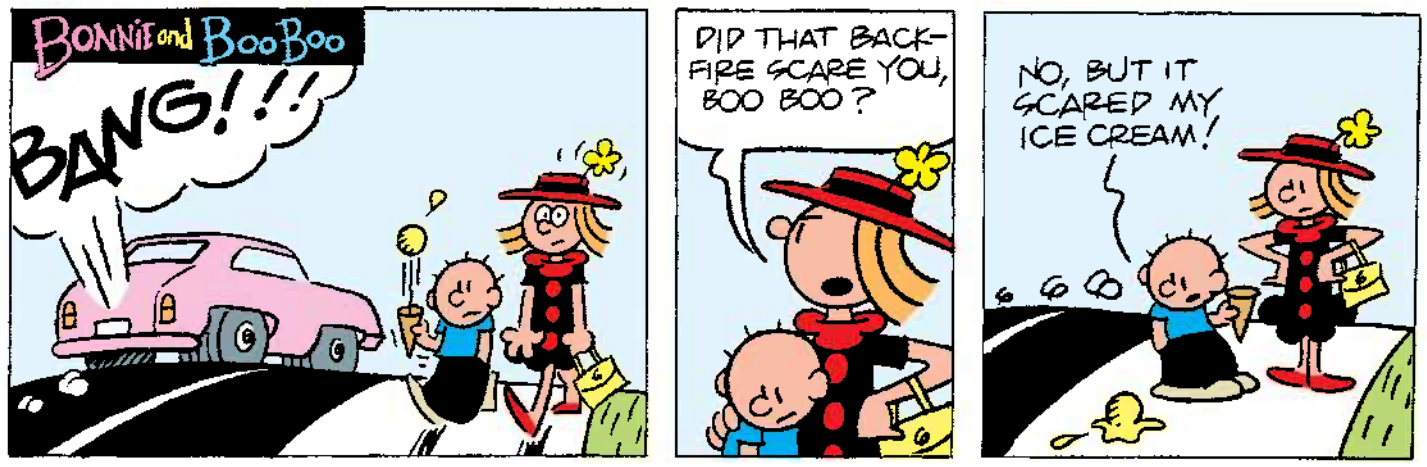
Then she spotted him among the cascading leaves of the cherry tree. I saw nothing but the tree. Finally, he landed on a dry spot on the edge of the birdbath.

Red admiral

I soon discovered our visitor could be easily identified. He was a red admiral, also known as Vanessa atalanta, described in several books as among the friendliest of butterflies. They've turned up in locations as diverse as the summit of Mount Washington in New Hampshire and the corner of Wall and Broad streets in New York's financial

See THE on Page 17

Bob Weber Jr.'s Slylock Fox and Comics for Kids



Count Weirdly has several castles and secret laboratories around the world. He is planning to build another laboratory in the largest city in an island country that is also a continent. Slylock Fox knows the name of the location. Do you?

Solution -- Count Weirdly is planning to build his new secret laboratory in Sydney, Australia.

Find six differences between these panels.

www.kidcartoonists.com

Answer -- String, lamp, cat's paws, newspaper, man's hair and bone.

New! The fourth **Find the six differences** collection is here. Send $4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to **Six Differences No. 4**, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-8475

HOW TO DRAW a perturbed pooch

YOUR DRAWING

Our terrific featured artist is Vanessa Romero, age 9, of New York, NY

Submit your drawings at **www.kidcartoonists.com**

The scrambled words are things found in Slylock Fox. How many can you unscramble?

1) NELCPI
2) MLPA
3) DLECNA
4) ESRPDI

Answer -- 1) Pencil 2) Lamp 3) Candle 4) Spider

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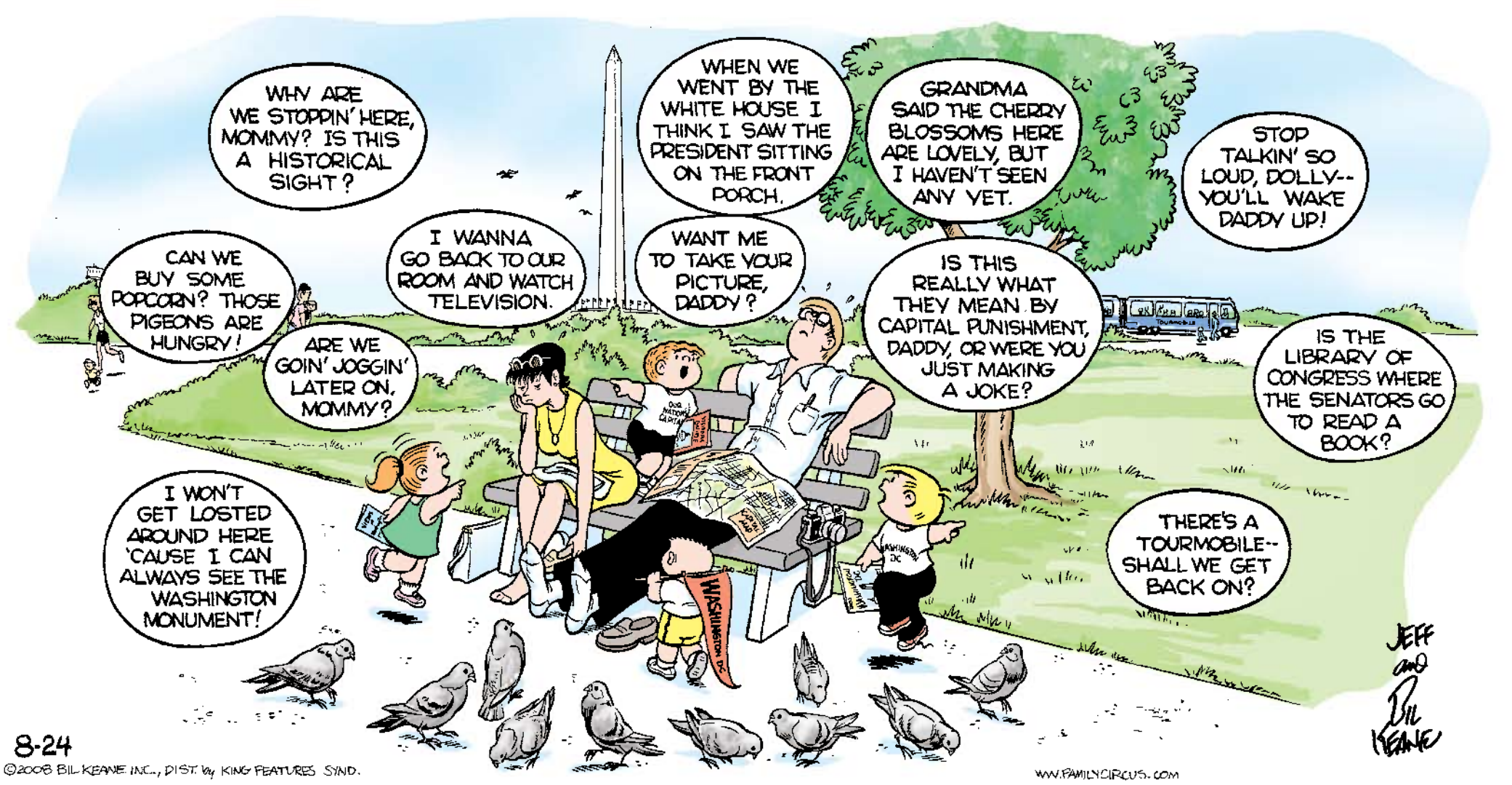
THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By Bil Keane


WHY ARE WE STOPPIN' HERE, MOMMY? IS THIS A HISTORICAL SIGHT?
WHEN WE WENT BY THE WHITE HOUSE I THINK I SAW THE PRESIDENT SITTING ON THE FRONT PORCH.
GRANDMA SAID THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS HERE ARE LOVELY, BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY YET.
STOP TALKIN' SO LOUD, DOLLY-- YOU'LL WAKE DADDY UP!
CAN WE BUY SOME POPCORN? THOSE PIGEONS ARE HUNGRY!
I WANNA GO BACK TO OUR ROOM AND WATCH TELEVISION.
WANT ME TO TAKE YOUR PICTURE, DADDY?
IS THIS REALLY WHAT THEY MEAN BY CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, DADDY, OR WERE YOU JUST MAKING A JOKE?
IS THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS WHERE THE SENATORS GO TO READ A BOOK?
ARE WE GOIN' JOGGIN' LATER ON, MOMMY?
I WON'T GET LOSTED AROUND HERE 'CAUSE I CAN ALWAYS SEE THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT!
THERE'S A TOURMOBILE-- SHALL WE GET BACK ON?
WASHINGTON DC
JEFF and BIL KEANE
8-24
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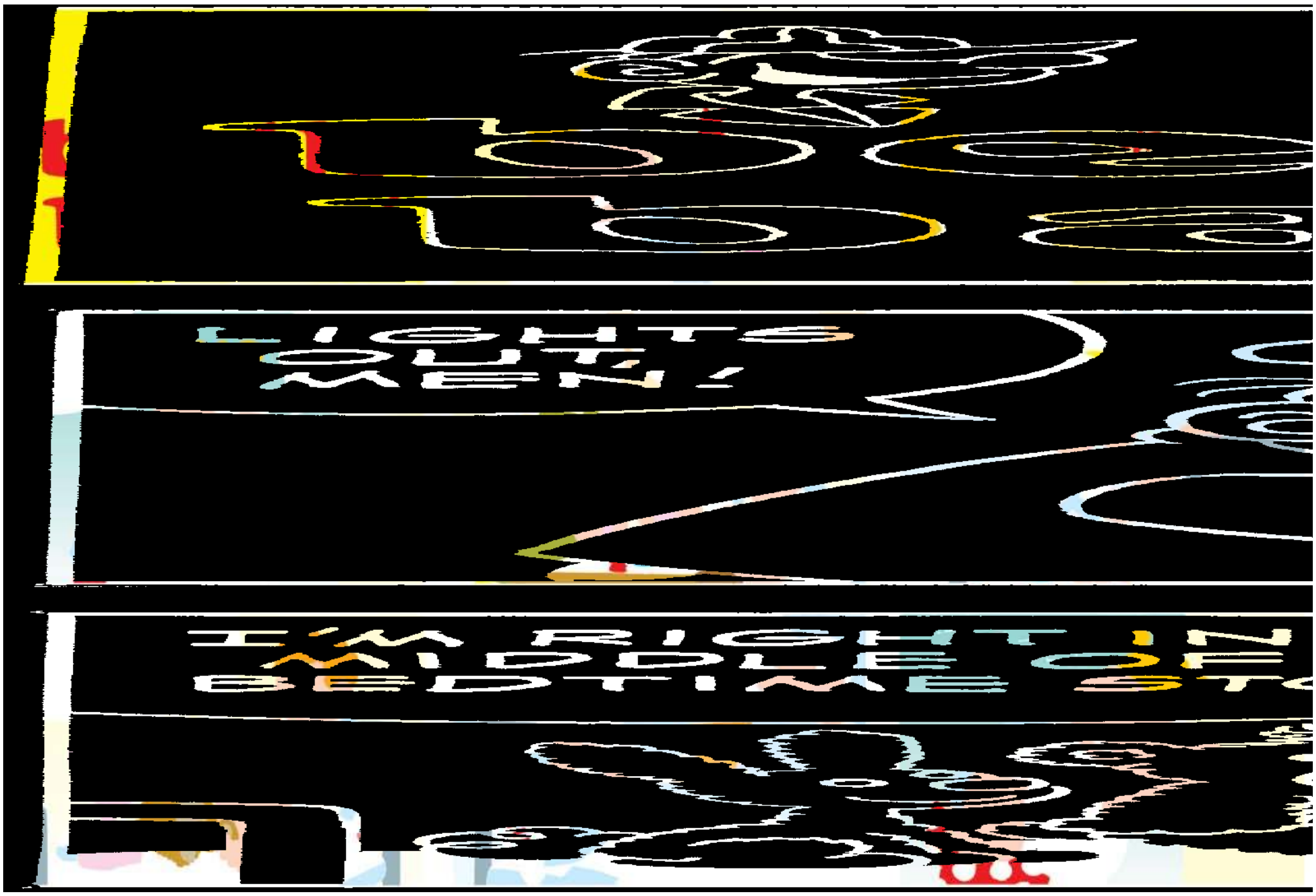

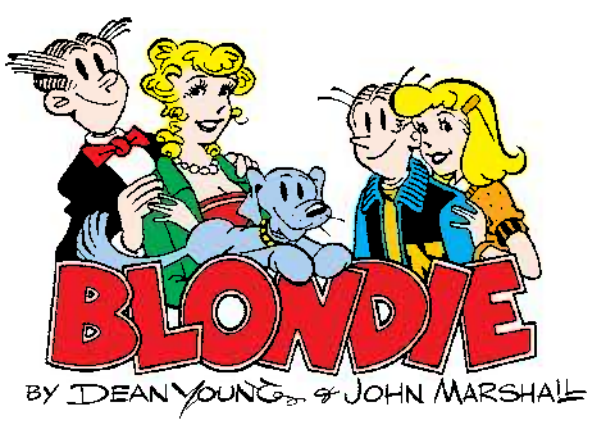

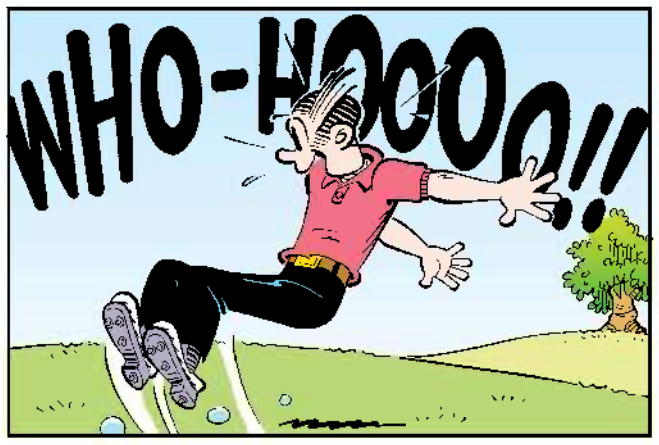

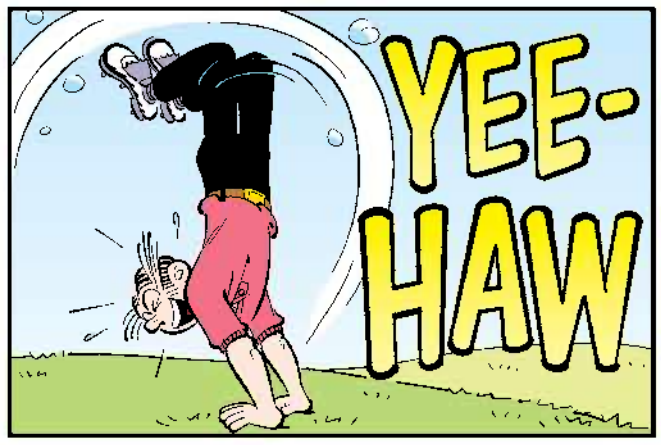

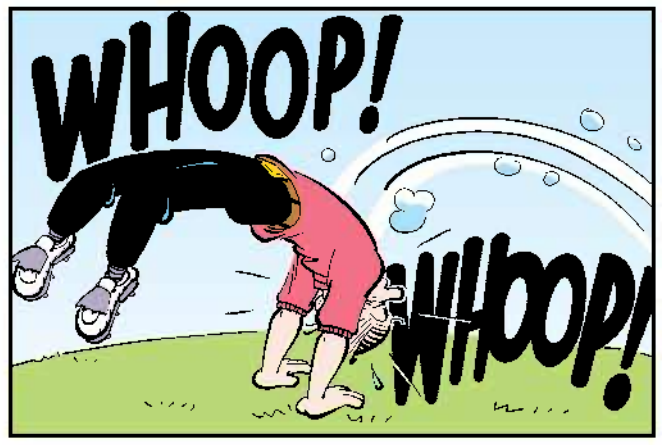

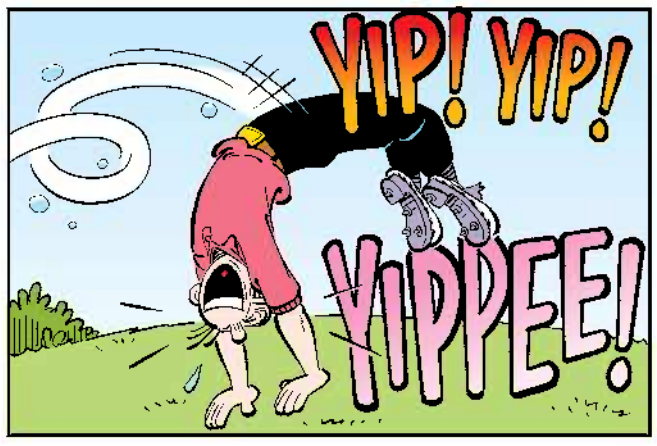

www.blondie.com

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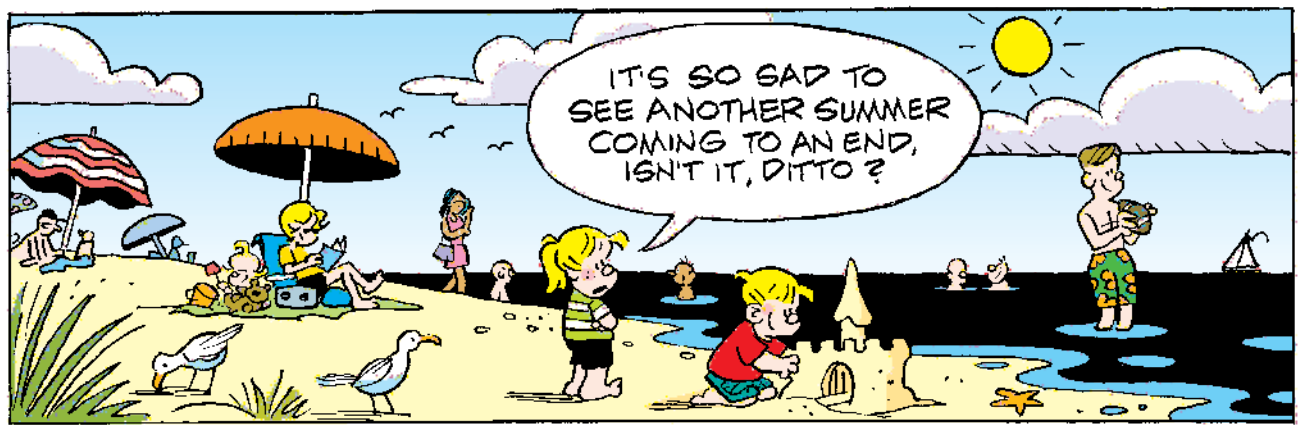
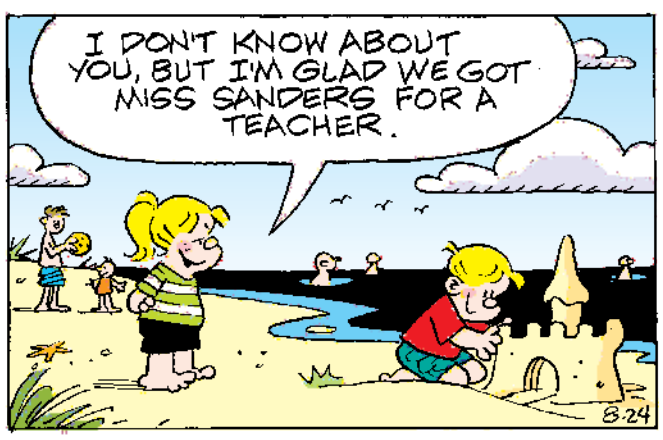
Hi and Lois

by BRIAN and GREG WALKER





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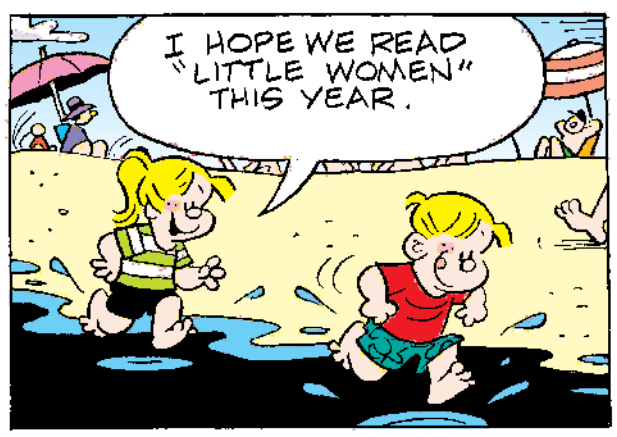
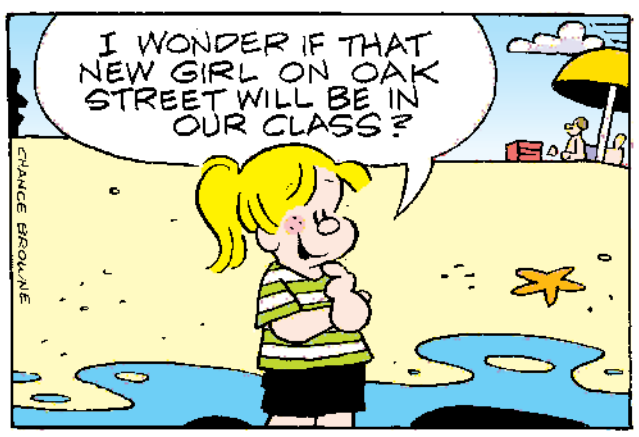
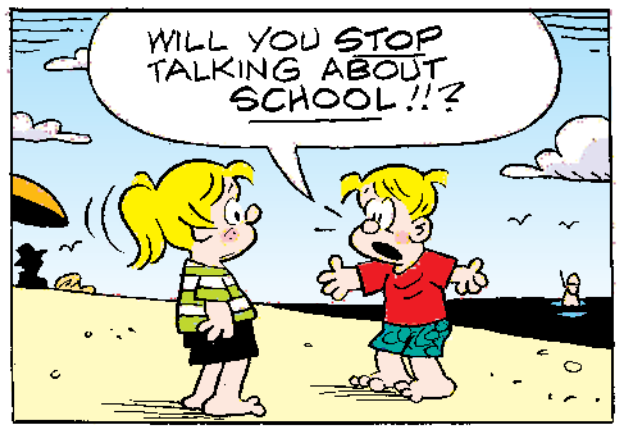
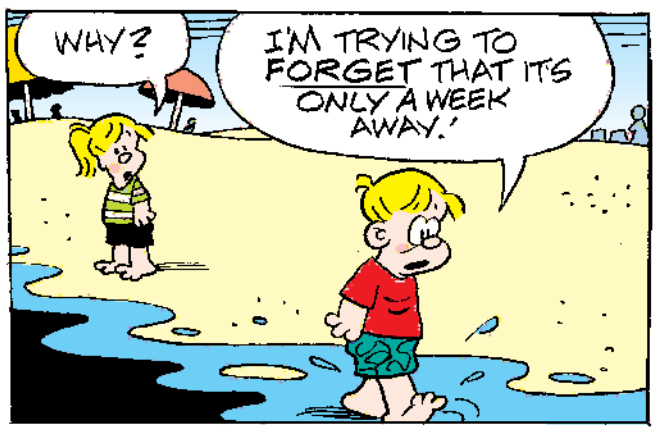


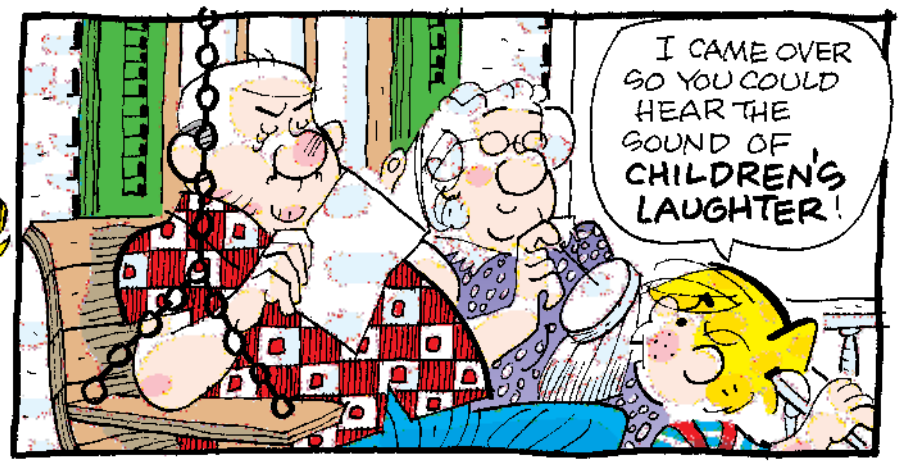


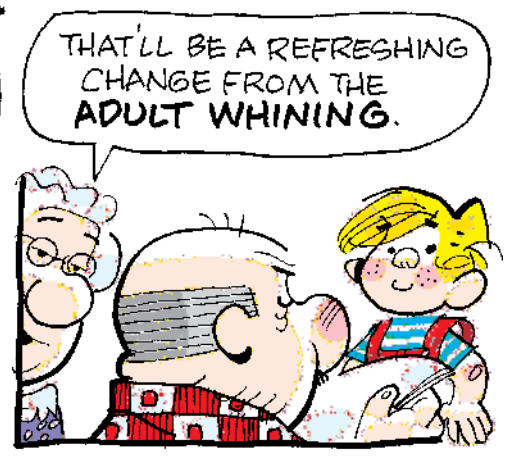


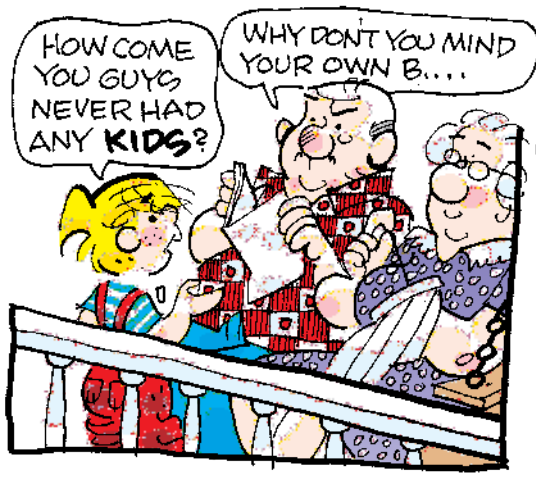


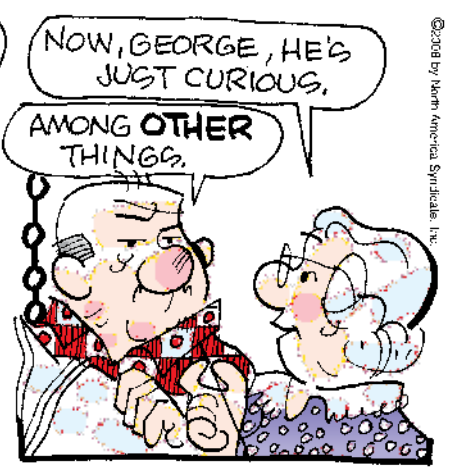
Hank Ketcham's Dennis the Menace

Stacked Deck









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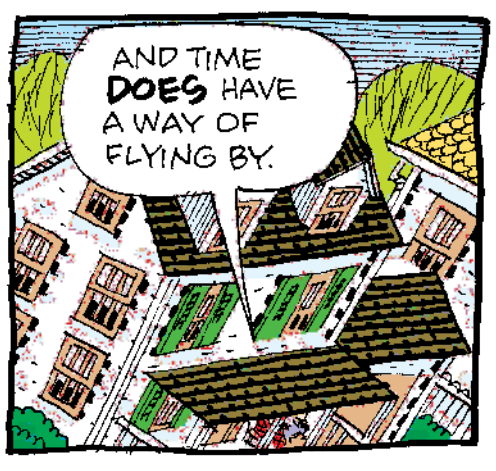

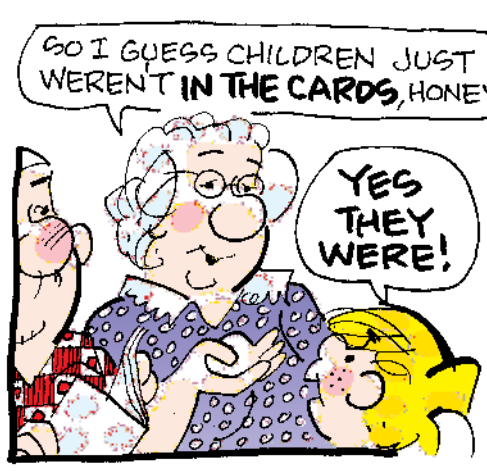

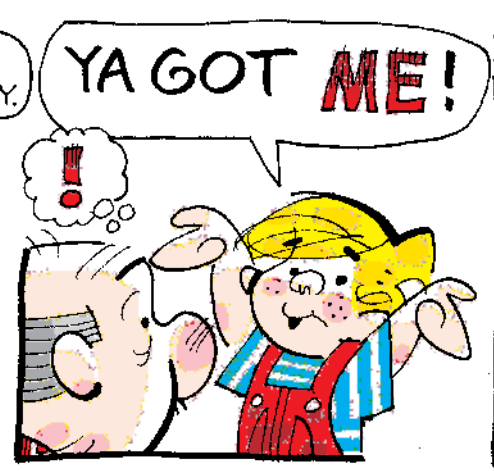

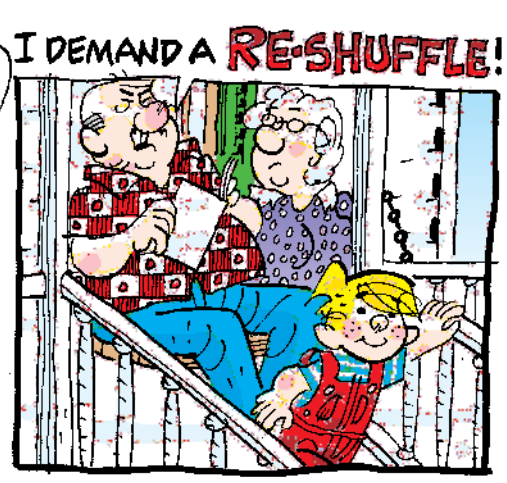

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HI THERE, MAY I SPEAK TO YOUR MOM, PLEASE?
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MOM!!!
MOM! WHERE ARE YOU?
OH! YOU'RE IN THE BATHROOM, HUH?
OKAY.
I'LL TELL HER THAT YOU'LL HAVE TO CALL HER BACK, BUT I WON'T SAY IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SITTING ON THE POTTY AND THAT SOMETIMES IT TAKES YOU A WHILE IN THERE!
HOW WAS THAT FOR ETIQUETTE?
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Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Impatience with those who don't keep up with you can cause resistance, which, in turn, can lead to more delays. Best to be helpful and supportive if you want results.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A surprise announcement from a colleague could put you on the defensive. Gather your facts and respond. You'll soon find the situation shifting in your favor.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Time spent away from a project pays off with a new awareness of options you hadn't considered before. Weigh them carefully before deciding which to choose.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Consider confronting that personal conflict while there's still time to work things out. A delay can cause more problems. A longtime colleague might offer to mediate.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Some emerging matters could impede the Lion's progress in completing an important project. Best advice: Deal with them now, before they can create costly delays.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your aspect continues to favor an expanding vista. This could be a good time to make a career move, and taking an out-of-town job could be a good way to do it.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Disruptive family disputes need to be settled so that everyone can move on. Avoid assuming this burden alone, though. Ask for -- no, demand -- help with this problem.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Patience is called for as you await word on an important workplace situation. A personal circumstance, however, could benefit by your taking immediate action.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Don't lose confidence in yourself. Those doubters are likely to back off if you demand they show solid proof why they think your ideas won't work.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A temporary setback might cause the usually sure-footed Goat some unsettling moments. But keep going. The path ahead gets easier as you move forward.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) There's welcome news from the workplace. There also could be good news involving a relationship that has long held a special meaning for you.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You might still need to cut some lingering ties to a situation that no longer has the appeal it once held. In the meantime, you can start to explore other opportunities.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your sense of what's right can inspire others if you remember not to push too hard to make your case. Moderation works best for you.

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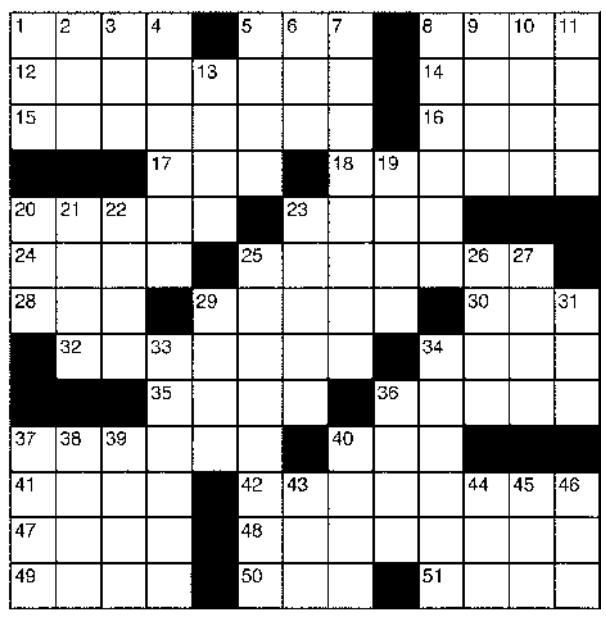
King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Tibetan monk
5 "— & Order: Criminal Intent"
8 Imperfection
12 Opposite of "sustain," in a courtroom
14 Highway division
15 Octopus' arm
16 Bits and pieces
17 Saute
18 Persian Gulf state
20 Ill-deserved
23 Kelly or Rayburn
24 Authentic
25 Spirally plant stem
28 "Platoon" locale
29 Surpass
30 Filch from
32 Lease signatories
34 Corrupt
35 Therefore
36 Supermarket section
37 Part of RAM
40 Hostel
41 Fat
42 "Enoch Arden" poet
47 Verbal
48 Climbing the fort walls?
49 Kathryn of 5-Across
50 To the — degree
51 Leftovers recipe

DOWN
1 Realtor's offering
2 "Hail!"
3 Chaps
4 Wily
5 Linus' sister
6 Every iota
7 Time off, for many
8 Bouquet
9 "Doctor Zhivago" role component
10 Opposed to
11 Into the sunset
13 Exceptional
19 Destroy
20 Coffee-shop vessel
21 Tidy
22 Lord's wife
23 Reach
25 Wolfram
26 Rainbow
27 Just hang about
29 Galley tools
31 Hive denizen
33 Thread transporter
34 Old 45s, e.g.
36 Kournikova of tennis
37 Lotion additive
38 Singer Vikki
39 Grouch
40 Part of the foot?
43 Superlative suffix
44 Perched
45 Praise in verse
46 Fresh

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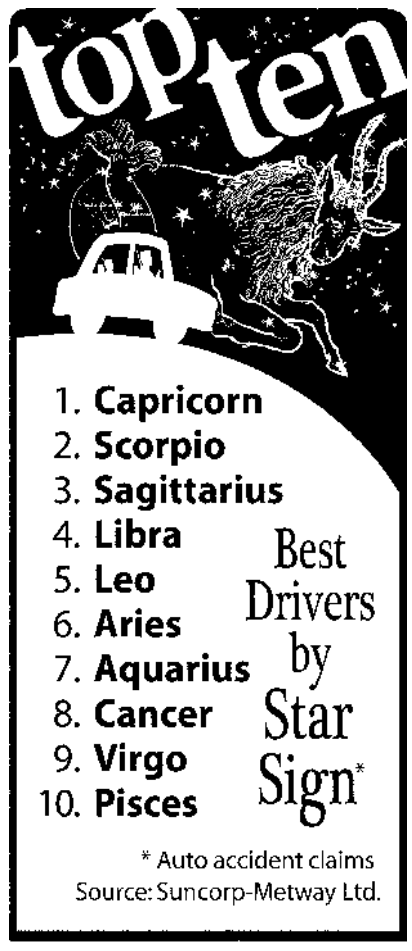

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KING CROSSWORD LAST SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

THE WASHINGTON POST

The author observes his new friend on a lamppost at his home near Glen Echo, Md. "My feelings … were approaching love for this small creature," he writes. "Poppy seemed to have a real personality."

A *pet butterfly confounds an expert*

By DAN SOUTHERLAND
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Bob Robbins, research entomologist and curator of lepidoptera for the Smithsonian Institution, said much of the red admiral's behavior in the evenings related to staking out territory and perching to look out for female butterflies. The butterfly might have been attracted to my sweat and might even have been using my head as a perch.

But Robbins found it unusual that I could approach within inches of the butterfly when he was on the lamppost or birdbath. Most butterflies will not let people come up to them, he said. He also thought it unusual that the same red admiral would stay in my garden and return time after time for more than a month. But he conceded that the butterfly's consistent behavior might mean it was indeed the same male butterfly. Finally, the idea that a butterfly would stick with me in a confined space such as a photo shop, then stay on my shoulder for more than an hour in a steakhouse and later ride home with me in a taxicab—that, he said, was "really, really unusual."

Had it not happened, and fortunately I have witnesses to confirm that it did, Robbins would have considered the cab ride to be "utterly unlikely."

I asked Robbins if he was aware of butterflies living in downtown Washington.

"They're there, but they're not very conspicuous," he said. "They're not very happy there. They don't like the noise, the cars and the pollution."

Well, I can certify that at least one D.C. butterfly managed to escape that fate, take a taxi ride out of town and survive to have the time of his life in the suburbs. And for 37 days, so did I.

THE

From Page 12

district, according to a 2005 book by Rick Cech and Guy Tudor. They can be found as far north as southern Canada, throughout the United States, as far south as Guatemala, in most of Europe and Central Asia, and in parts of North Africa.

In southern Europe, red admirals migrate in large numbers, but they fly less frequently en masse in North America. Cech and Tudor have documented mass flights in the spring along the East Coast about once a decade in recent years, "often followed by precipitous population crashes."

According to the Kaufman Field Guide to Butterflies of North America, red admiral males are "especially pugnacious, darting out at almost anything crossing their territory, even humans!" I went over to where my red admiral was perched on the birdbath. He flew up, and at that point a minor miracle occurred. He was joined by another butterfly. I thought at first that it was a female and imagined that our butterfly had found a girlfriend. But I later learned that based on its flying behavior, the second butterfly was probably a male. The two butterflies flew in loops, what I came to view as a sort of spiral dance. Male red admirals typically chase one another to establish dominance over a particular territory. How could I be sure that my friend was male? No particular reason, just instinct. I came up with a name for him—Poppy—from the French "papillon" for butterfly. If I was wrong about his gender, Poppy would do just fine for a female, I thought.

Daily routine

So began a period of more than a month during which Poppy appeared 25 times.

If I came home after dark, he wouldn't show. But if I arrived at dusk, about 7:30 or 7:45, he invariably appeared. And day by day, he became, from my point of view, increasingly friendly and playful. I began to keep a log of his comings and goings as well as of his stunts, which reminded me of a fighter pilot who fired no weapons but just loved flying.

At first, I told very few people about Poppy. I felt somehow that I needed to protect him. My cousin Phebe, who lives in a renovated log cabin near Lexington, Va., and is wise in the ways of nature, seemed to think the butterfly might be attracted to the white shirt I was wearing when I first encountered him on L Street. So for several days, I put on the same white shirt every evening and then waited for the butterfly in front of my house. A neighbor walked by once and asked me what I was doing standing there in my white shirt.

"Looking for butterflies," I replied. But I decided that the shirt couldn't be the only attraction. I learned that butterflies are strongly attracted to the salt in human sweat, so it looked as if it was the sweat, not the shirt.

How did I know it was the same butterfly that landed on me each time? The answer was in his behavior. It was so consistent that it was hard to imagine another butterfly precisely duplicating it. Based on my research, it is rare for a butterfly to return to the same person time after time. Indeed, I at first thought that I must be having a unique experience. But a zoologist and amateur naturalist, Judith Shaw, of Mitchellville, Md., alerted me to a report about a boy in California who once befriended a red admiral.

Same experience

Gregory Richards, 9 at the time, had an amazingly similar experience to mine, according to a United Press International story that appeared in the Los Angeles Times in July 1969. For 20 days, a butterfly believed to be a red admiral fluttered around and landed on Gregory when the boy played in the evening in front of his grandparents' home. Gregory's rendezvous with the butterfly, named Mr. Flutter by his grandmother, occurred daily, usually about 7 p.m. A local entomologist said he was amazed and couldn't understand what attracted the insect to the boy.

Richards, now 48, reached by phone at his home in Kingsburg, Calif., confirmed the story, adding that regular visits from a red admiral butterfly occurred for three consecutive summers at his grandparents' place. "I looked for him every evening," Richards said. "But if other kids were around, he wouldn't come close to me."

Pattern

As early as July 12, Day Three of his stay with us, Poppy began to establish a pattern. He would emerge from the thick camouflage of the cherry tree. I couldn't see him there, but Muriel had an uncanny ability to detect his movements.

Then he would drop down to the birdbath and land on the top of the lamppost. I found that when he was on the lamppost or birdbath, I could come within six or seven inches of him and say a few words without disturbing him. He would sit at first with his wings closed, the scales on their underside looking like dried leaves—a sort of camouflage. But then he would slowly open his wings, showing the bright orange-red bars that make this butterfly so easy to identify. It was a gesture that I saw again and again, and I took it as a sign that he knew I wouldn't harm him.

Even the appearance of a catbird, which watched the butterfly from a close distance on two or three occasions, didn't seem to bother Poppy. Muriel tried shouting out once to alert Poppy to the bird, but he ignored the warning. On Day Five, July 14, Poppy tried something new. He danced in the air, then landed on the lamppost and birdbath, but this time he also landed on my head, stayed there briefly and then popped onto my left shoulder. Then he teamed up with his partner again. And, finally, two more red admirals joined them and together they all showed off their flying ability, chasing one another in loops and eights. My 25-year-old son, Matthew, witnessing this, said "they zipped and dipped." I was amazed at the speed achieved by these small creatures.

From then on, it became almost routine for Poppy to land on my head once or twice in an evening. Once he landed on the rim of my glasses and sat there for a while. He also began opening his evening show by buzzing me just inches above my head.

Playful phase

On July 21, Poppy launched into an even more playful phase and kept a closer watch on me. He appeared at the front door of the house and fluttered about as if inviting me out to play. When I came out to greet him, he hovered, waited until I got within inches of him and then darted around the corner as if playing hide-and-seek. I found him clinging to the brick front of the house. When I approached, he opened his wings to display his brilliant colors.

That same day, he watched me rebuild a low border of stones along the driveway in front of our house. I had plans for a long, white, quartzlike stone that particularly delighted me and that would fit perfectly into a spot next to the driveway. I lifted the stone to move it to its new location. Almost as if he had anticipated this, the butterfly showed up ahead of me next to that very spot. I told Muriel that he must have been reading my mind. And, along with the lamppost and birdbath, the stone became one of the butterfly's favorite perches.

I became so attached to the butterfly that I would try to leave work early enough to get home in time to see him. One evening I walked out of the office and realized that I was going to be too late. So instead of taking my usual trip by Metro and bus, I jumped in a taxi and rode straight home, an extravagance, but it was worth it. Poppy showed up just a few minutes after I reached the house.

Real personality

My feelings at this point were approaching love for this small creature. Poppy seemed to have a real personality. Our dog, cat and rabbit had to play to a certain extent by our rules. The cat, of course, did call the shots sometimes. But Poppy called all the shots. He didn't depend on me for food or water. He decided when to show up and when to leave. Except for possible concerns about predators (birds, lizards and other insects, for example), he was as free as you can get.

I'm convinced that he also had a tremendous sense of joy. The novelist Vladimir Nabokov picked up on this. A passionate amateur lepidopterist, Nabokov once wrote that the red admiral is "a most frolicsome fly." Nabokov also liked to refer to the butterfly as "Red Admirable," a name that according to at least one account was used as far back as the 18th century.

I began paying a lot more respect to all insects. Poppy taught me how little we know about these small creatures. He didn't completely change my life, but he certainly enhanced my ability to question. If a moth wandered into our house, I resisted the temptation to swat and instead tried to find a way to carry it outside. I also got a spider and a beetle out of the house recently without harming them.

Saying goodbye

August began with more butterfly duets and head and shoulder landings. Poppy seemed to fly faster than before and enjoyed chasing his friend. He also took to buzzing our car, a silver-colored Saturn. The car never looked more beautiful.

I began to prepare myself psychologically for Poppy's departure. Red admirals sometimes migrate, and I clung to the idea that my butterfly friend would soon head southward to a nice setting in Florida just ahead of winter. I figured it would take him weeks to get there. I later learned that this was a bit of a romantic notion at this stage in the butterfly's life and that he probably faced imminent death. Other red admirals at this point were nowhere to be seen. Poppy seemed to be on his own.

On Aug. 15, I stood outside for half an hour waiting for Poppy. Then I gave up, guessing that he was gone. Suddenly he flew overhead near the cherry tree. He soared fairly high, so high that I lost sight of him. I'd like to think that it was a final salute. I never saw him again.

Neighbors asked if he would come back. I explained that this was unlikely. But I held on to the notion that a small miracle had occurred. I had made a connection with the natural world that I had never dreamed possible.

United States

Biden emerges as Obama's likely choice

WASHINGTON (AP)—Delaware Sen. Joe Biden emerged as Barack Obama's likely choice for vice presidential running mate on the Democratic ticket Friday night as other contenders slowly fell away in a suspenseful day and night.

Biden, who has twice run for president, remained out of public view. Obama's campaign said it would have no announcement until a text message planned for early Saturday, but did nothing to squelch the growing speculation.

The 65-year-old senator became the focus as Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine spread word he had been ruled out and Sen. Evan Bayh of Indiana was told he was not Obama's choice.

Several aides to former first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton—who was Obama's closest rival for the presidential nomination—said they believed she was out of contention. They added the Obama campaign had never requested financial or other records from her, the typical first step toward a nomination.

AP

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama would be delivering an attention-grabbing and soaring keynote speech at the 2004 Democratic convention. His vice presidential choice could help him overcome voter questions about his lack of experience while showing he would appoint strong figures to his government. Those handicapping the choice have Obama looking at from left: Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, Delaware Sen. Joe Biden, Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh and Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine.

Obama arranged a Saturday debut with his ticket mate outside the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Ill. Among those who had made the short list, Biden brought the most experience in defense or foreign policy—areas in which Obama is rated relatively poorly in the polls compared with Republican Sen. John McCain. Biden, 65, was elected to the Senate at the age of 29 in 1973.

Biden spent the day at his home in Delaware with friends and family. The normally loquacious lawmaker maintained a low profile as associates said they believed—but did not know—he would be tapped. They added they had been asked to stand by in case their help was needed.

Additionally, several associates of Obama—including some at his campaign headquarters in Chicago—said they believed Biden was the choice, though they cautioned they had not been told directly.

Biden dropped out of the 2008 race after a poor finish in the Iowa caucuses, but not before he talked dismissively of joining someone else's ticket.

On the 5th day of Fay, cleanup begins in Fla.

STEINHATCHEE, Fla. (AP)—As Tropical Storm Fay finally got on track Friday to leave Florida behind, flood-stricken homeowners got an encouraging sign: Muddy brown water lines began appearing on the sides of homes, a clue that floodwaters were receding.

The fickle storm that stuck around for five days and carved a dizzying path that included three separate landfalls dumped more than two feet of rain in some places. But to the relief of Floridians, it finally veered west on a path that should take it away from the state for good later this weekend.

By Friday night, the storm had crossed into the Gulf of Mexico, and it was poised for a likely fourth landfall over the Panhandle the next day.

Officials in Melbourne, one of the hardest-hit areas on the central Atlantic coast, carried boats down streets where just a day earlier 4 feet of water made roads look like rivers. Water several feet high remained in some neighborhoods, but most of the area had drained, leaving behind a half-inch layer of muck and mud.

"This is a welcome sight," said Ron Salvatore, 69, who stood in his driveway Friday morning boiling coffee on a propane grill and surveyed a dry street. Salvatore and his wife Terry, 59, had been stuck in the house since Tuesday because water surrounded their home.

The storm's death toll rose to six in Florida and nearly 30 overall since Fay first struck in the Caribbean. Florida officials said four people died in traffic accidents in the heavy rain and two others drowned in surf kicked up by the storm.

AP

George Sweat, 46, searches for his valuables after a large pine tree fell on his home, as girlfriend Peggy Mash, 53, played on her couch with her two cats, at right, during Tropical Storm Fay Friday, Aug. 22, 2008 in Hawthorne, Fla. Residents of the Ranch Motel RV Park and Campground rushed to save the woman, comforting her until rescue crews arrived. Mash was taken to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

Neb. 'safe-haven' law allows abandonment of teens

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Nebraska's new "safe-haven" law allowing parents to abandon unwanted children at hospitals with no questions asked is unique in a significant way: It goes beyond babies and potentially permits the abandonment of anyone under 19.

While lawmakers may not have intended it, the month-old law raises the possibility that frustrated parents could drop off misbehaving teens or even severely disabled older children with impunity.

"Whether the kid is disabled or unruly or just being a hormonal teenager, the state is saying: 'Hey, we have a really easy option for you,'" said Adam Pertman, executive director of a New York adoption institute and a frequent critic of safe-haven laws.

Nebraska's approach is surprising because it is the last state in the nation to adopt a safe-haven law.

But instead of following the lead of other states, which focus on the abandonment of newborns, lawmakers here wanted to extend the protection to all minors. And in Nebraska, that goes all the way up to age 19.

Jury: Confessed killer of Idaho boy can get death

BOISE, Idaho (AP)—A man who kidnapped, raped, tortured and murdered a 9-year-old Idaho boy was deemed eligible for the death penalty by a jury on Friday, soon after the killer himself came close to thanking prosecutors for showing the panel sickening videos of him abusing the child.

Duncan,

The jury deliberated for two hours before issuing its unanimous ruling. When the hearing resumes next week, jurors must decide whether Joseph Edward Duncan III should be put to death for killing Dylan Groene in 2005.

Friday's verdict was not surprising after Duncan's closing argument, in which he told the jurors they didn't yet "have a clue" about the depths of his "heinousness."

Duncan, 45, didn't react to the verdict. The slain boy's father, Steven Groene, and other family supporters embraced after the verdict but seemed to keep their emotions in check.

ACROSS THE NATION

SC sex offender gets 25 years for gun charge

FLORENCE, S.C. (AP)—A man acquitted last year of charges he raped two girls in an underground dungeon has been sentenced to 25 years on a federal gun charge. A U.S. District Court judge in South Carolina said Kenneth Glenn Hinson's criminal history led to the lengthy sentence on a charge of being a felon in possession of a weapon. Authorities said they found the 49-year-old man with a gun when he was arrested in 2006. Two teenage girls had said Hinson raped them in an underground room behind his home and left them for dead. He was acquitted last year on those charges.

Md. standoff ends when police burst in on suspect

HANCOCK, Md. (AP)—Police ended a two-day standoff with a burglary suspect holed up in a motel with his pregnant girlfriend, bursting into the room and grabbing the man after he was brought food Friday, authorities said. James Prevatt III, 26, was captured around 7:30 at the one-story motel that officers had surrounded since Wednesday night, said Maj. Larry Suther of the Baltimore County Police Department. No one was injured when police ended the standoff, during which the suspect had threatened to kill officers and the woman. Prevatt and the woman, identified as 21-year-old Renee Reynolds, were taken to an area hospital for checkups and were being questioned Friday night.

Fired Philly TV anchor admits e-mail hacking

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A fired TV newscaster admitted in court Friday that he illegally hacked into his co-anchor's e-mail accounts and leaked private information about her to gossip columnists. Larry Mendte admitted that he viewed hundreds of Alycia Lane's e-mails from March 2006 to May 2008, including ones from her agent, her then-husband and lawyers representing her after she was arrested in New York last year and fired from KYW-TV. Mendte, 51, said his actions grew out of a feud with Lane, 36, that began after he ended what he said was a flirtatious and improper relationship with her. Rosen promptly disputed the account.

Audits of Medicare drug plans lacking

WASHINGTON (AP)—Nearly three years into the Medicare drug benefit, federal officials have yet to ensure that private drug plans enacted programs to deter fraud and abuse, government investigators say. About 24 million people are enrolled in Medicare drug plans subsidized by the federal government. The plans are required to develop programs to stem improper spending, but the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has not conducted audits to ensure those programs were up and running properly. That lack of oversight "risks significant misuse of funds in this $39 billion program," the Government Accountability Office said in a report to be publicly released Monday.

Confessed accomplice talks about serial shootings

PHOENIX (AP)—Two men accused of being a serial-killing team faced each other for the first time in more than a year Friday as attorneys sparred over their alleged roles in a series of random, late-night attacks during the summer of 2006. This time, however, Samuel Dieteman was working with prosecutors, testifying at a hearing that he and Dale Hausner, his former roommate, would take turns attacking people. He also described shootings he didn't witness that he said Hausner and Hausner's brother told him about. Dieteman, 32, has pleaded guilty to two murders. Hausner, 35, has denied any involvement in the shootings and stabbings.

Teen's tough act may have had role in shooting

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Tough-talking Ryan McDonald grew up in a rough blue-collar neighborhood, teased as "Mr. Clean" since childhood after an ailment left him permanently bald. But friends and family say the intimidating manner he used to fend off insults hid a generous and funny teenager eager one day to work with troubled children. His life abruptly ended Thursday morning when a classmate shot him to death in the cafeteria of Central High School here. A police spokesman said Friday investigators believe they know the shooting motive, based on a brief conversation between an officer and the suspect, 15-year-old freshman Jamar Siler. Police arrested Siler minutes after the shooting - and three blocks from school.

Asia

US: 30 militants killed in Afghanistan battle

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—U.S.-led troops attacked a compound where Taliban leaders were meeting and killed 30 militants, American and Afghan military officials said Friday, but the Interior Ministry said a large number of civilians died. The U.S. said it would investigate.

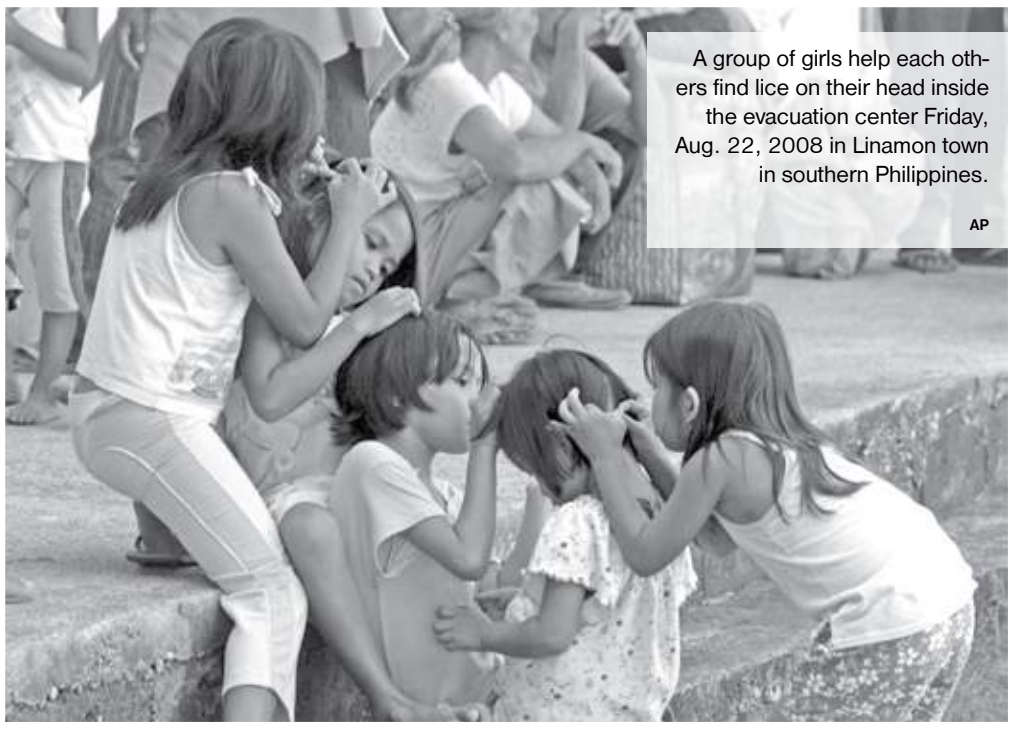
The coalition was striking back against insurgents opposed to the Western-backed government of President Hamid Karzai who have stepped up attacks on foreign and Afghan troops.

The coalition said its troops called in airstrikes on the compound in the Shindand district of western Herat province Thursday.

Some 30 militants were killed and five others were detained, a spokesman, 1st Lt. Nathan Perry, said. The troops found a haul of weapons and ammunition inside the compound, he said.

An Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman, Gen. Mohammad Zaher Azimi, confirmed the clash but said five of the 30 dead were civilians.

However, the Afghan Interior Ministry claimed U.S. coalition bombs killed 76 civilians, including 19 women and 50 children under the age of 15. The ministry called the bombing a "mistake."



A group of girls help each others find lice on their head inside the evacuation center Friday, Aug. 22, 2008 in Linamon town in southern Philippines.

AP

Philippine peace accord on shaky ground after attacks

KAUSWAGAN, Philippines (AP)—The latest violence in the southern Philippines took the government - and the military - by surprise, coming just weeks after Muslim rebels initialed a peace accord.

Moro Islamic Liberation Front guerrillas angry over snags in the peace plan went on a rampage Aug. 18 in the southern hinterlands, shooting or hacking to death at least 37 people as they fled in panic from houses that had been set on fire.

Lani Banglos was one of those caught in the middle. Her small village store and her family's home in Kauswagan township were burned down and some of her neighbors were killed.

The 27-year-old had labored for more than two years as a housemaid in faraway Qatar to earn the money to build a store to support her parents and her siblings. Poking a stick into the gray ash, she searched for money in the rubble of her shop.

"These are all that's left," she said of seven, soot-covered coins in her palm as she wiped away tears. "I'm back to square one." The peace process may be, too.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Watchdog tallies pressure on activists at Olympics

PARIS (AP)—Media monitor Reporters Without Borders said Friday at least 47 foreign pro-Tibetan activists have been expelled and 22 foreign journalists detained or manhandled by police or other authorities during the Beijing Olympics. Among those detained were two American video bloggers sentenced to 10-day prison terms for "disrupting public order," a statement from the group said. It said at least 50 Beijing-based human rights activists have been detained, harassed or forced to leave the capital.

Crowds of Muslims protest Indian rule in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Hundreds of thousands of Muslims marched in Indian Kashmir's main city Friday in the largest protest against Indian rule in over a decade, intensifying the turmoil that has roiled the Himalayan region. Long lines of people carrying green and black protest flags thronged a main square in Srinagar, the region's biggest city, for the rally called by a coalition of separatist political parties. Schools, businesses and shops were shut across the region and public transportation was halted.

Bhutto widower proposed for Pakistan president

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan's largest political party on Friday proposed the husband of assassinated leader Benazir Bhutto to succeed the ousted Pervez Musharraf as president. Asif Ali Zardari, who is emerging as the favorite to be elected by legislators Sept. 6, criticized Musharraf for his long, authoritarian rule but would likely continue the former general's support for the U.S. war against extremist groups. However, his ascent would dismay many Pakistanis, who view him as a symbol of the sleaze that tainted the country's last experiment with civilian rule in the 1990s.

World

AP

Russian soldiers give bread to a Georgian woman near the village of Igoeti, 50 kilometers (30 miles) northwest of Tbilisi, Georgia, Friday, Aug. 22, 2008.

Russian military pulls out

GORI, Georgia (AP)—Columns of hulking, smoke-belching Russian tanks rolled out of key positions deep inside Georgia Friday as Moscow declared it had pulled its forces out following the worst confrontation between the Kremlin and the West since the Soviet collapse. But the United States, France and Britain protested the withdrawal was not complete.

Georgians exulted in a new sense of freedom as the Russian troops departed.

Outside Igoeti, the closest Russians got to the capital of Tbilisi, Georgian police in a convoy of cars and pickup trucks pumped their fists and waved white-and-red national flags as they trailed behind two Russian tanks pulling out ahead of them.

"How can we not be happy? We've gotten what we want," said Levan, 77, a math teacher in the strategically located central city of Gori, farther up Georgia's main east-west highway, who would give only his first name. "We're overjoyed to see our own police on our streets again."

An Associated Press reporter saw what may have been the last convoy of Russian armored vehicles leave Gori shortly after 5 p.m. Friday. The six vehicles drove off after soldiers fired on a disabled armored personnel carrier, perhaps not to leave any working equipment behind for the Georgians to seize.

A few hours later, Gori was empty of Russian forces.

"We are in control of the streets of the city of Gori," Georgian Interior Minister Vano Merabishvili said outside city hall.

The withdrawal came two weeks to the day after thousands of Russian soldiers roared into the former Soviet republic following an assault by Georgian forces on the capital of the separatist territory of South Ossetia. The conflict left hundreds dead, several cities destroyed and nearly 160,000 people homeless.

Sadrists denounce emerging US-Iraq deal

BAGHDAD (AP)—Several thousand supporters of anti-American Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr protested Friday against an emerging U.S.-Iraqi security agreement, saying it would turn Iraq into a U.S. colony.

The march in the southern city of Kufa came a day after U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice met with Iraqi leaders in Baghdad to discuss the deal, which includes a gradual withdrawal of U.S. forces.

Under a draft agreement, American combat troops would pull out of major Iraqi cities by next June and leave Iraq by 2011, according to Iraqi officials familiar with the document.

The schedule could be modified if the two governments agree, and the pact has not been approved by either the Iraqi Cabinet or the parliament, which has the final decision.

Al-Sadr, who lives in Iran but retains significant political clout in Iraq, strongly opposes the U.S. military presence.

Aide: Iraq's al-Sadr may stay in Iran for years

NAJAF, Iraq (AP)—Militant Shiite leader Muqtada al-Sadr plans to make a series of short visits to Iraq starting within weeks but has decided to make Iran his home base for years to come, a key aide says.

The aide spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not supposed to discuss the subject. He is close to the 35-year-old cleric and has accurately reported on the Sadrist movement for several years.

The aide would not say how long al-Sadr would stay in Iran, where he has lived since May 2007, but said it was "reasonable" to expect he would remain there for five or more years.

3 arrests for Web threat vs UK leader

LONDON (AP)—Three terrorism suspects arrested in northern England earlier this month were detained in connection with an Internet threat against Prime Minister Gordon Brown, British media reported Friday.

British Broadcasting Corp. said the three men were being held in connection with a Web posting signed "al-Qaida in Britain" that threatened the life of Brown and his predecessor as prime minister, Tony Blair.

The statement, posted on a radical Web site earlier this year, demanded the withdrawal of British troops from Iraq and Afghanistan and the release of some Muslim prison inmates.

Britain's Press Association news agency quoted unidentified police officials as confirming the BBC report. The BBC did not explain the suspects' alleged connection to the Internet posting.

Lancashire police in northern England were not immediately available for comment, while Brown's office and the Home Office declined comment.

The three men were arrested Aug. 14, two of them at Manchester Airport, about 190 miles north of London, and the third in the town of Accrington.

Focus

AP

Ethnic Vietnamese and naturalized Taiwanese citizen Chen Shih Mei-ying, left, poses with her Taiwanese husband Lin Wen-jui in their food shop in Taipei, Taiwan, Tuesday, July 1, 2008.

Vietnamese women wed foreigners to help family

TAN LOC ISLAND, Vietnam (AP)— Nearly 70 young Vietnamese women swept past in groups of five, twirling and posing like fashion models, all competing for the hand of a Taiwanese man who had paid a matchmaking service about $6,000 for the privilege of marrying one of them.

Sporting jeans and a black T-shirt, 20-year-old Le Thi Ngoc Quyen paraded in front of the stranger, hoping he would select her.

"I felt very nervous," she recalled recently as she described the scene. "But he chose me, and I agreed to marry him right away."

Like many women from the Mekong Delta island of Tan Loc, Quyen had concluded that finding a foreign husband was her best route out of poverty. Six years later, she has a beautiful daughter and no regrets.

From the delta in Vietnam's south to small rural towns in the north, a growing number of young Vietnamese women are marrying foreigners, mostly from Taiwan and South Korea. They seek material comfort and, most important, a way to save their parents from destitution in old age, which many Vietnamese consider their greatest duty.

Quyen has not gotten rich - her husband earns a modest living as a construction worker - but the couple have paid off her father's debts. Young women have become Tan Loc's most lucrative export. Roughly 1,500 village women from the island of 33,000 people have married foreigners in the past decade, leading some to call it Taiwan Island.

Women in Tan Loc and other delta towns began marrying foreigners in the 1990s, when Vietnam opened up economically and many Taiwanese and South Korean firms set up operations in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam's southern business hub.

Poverty and the close proximity of foreign businessmen seem to be major reasons for the trend. The biggest complaints come from women's groups, who consider it demeaning, and from young village men for whom the pool of potential brides is shrinking.

With money from foreign sons-in-law, many residents in Tan Loc have replaced their thatch-roof shacks with brick homes. They have also opened small restaurants and shops, creating jobs in a place where people have traditionally earned pennies a day picking rice and other crops in the blistering sun.

The luckier families received enough to build ponds for fish farming.

Western Union has opened a branch to handle the money sent by newlyweds. "At least 20 percent of the families on the island have been lifted out of poverty," said Phan An, a university professor who has done extensive research in Tan Loc. "There has been a significant economic impact."

Not all the marriages work out, of course.

Dam Psi Kin Sa went to Taiwan nine years ago, at the age of 20, and married a Taiwanese car wash owner more than twice her age who had been divorced three times. She met him through a matchmaking service.

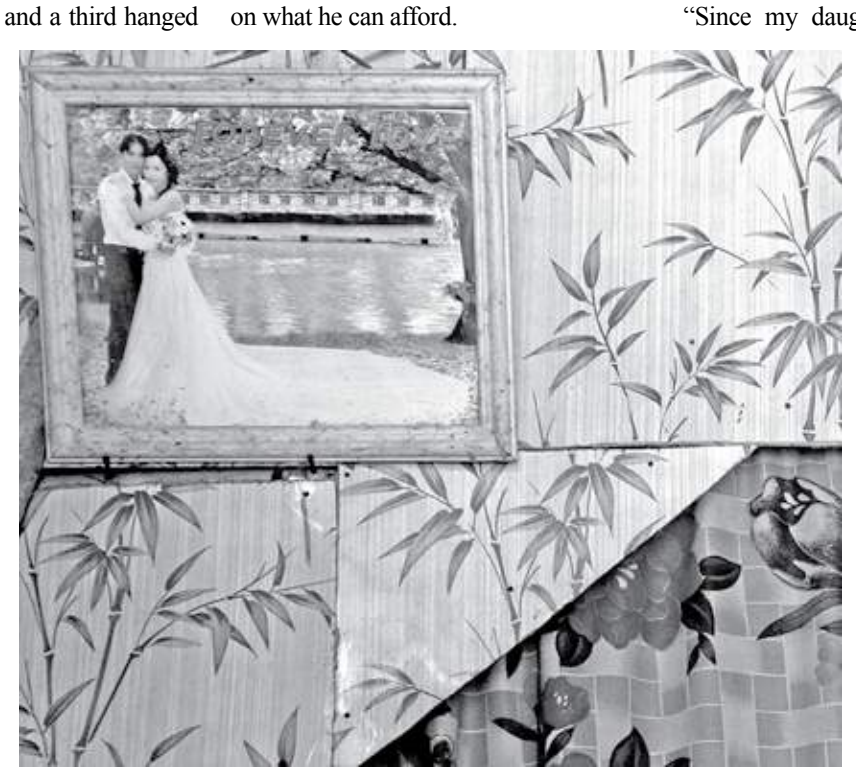
Five years later, her husband demanded a divorce and locked her out of the house. Even though she had learned his language, Mandarin Chinese, the couple had trouble communicating. "We were angry at each other in a quiet way," she said in Taipei, where she has remained to be close to her daughter.

Over the past year, one Vietnamese bride was beaten to death by her South Korean husband, another jumped out a 14th-story window and a third hanged herself on Valentine's Day, leaving behind a diary full of misery.

"A marriage that is not based on love often brings problems," said Hoang Thi Thanh Ha of the Vietnam Women's Union. "How can you live happily ever after when you met your husband three weeks before the wedding?"

Nevertheless, most young women in Tan Loc seem eager to marry a foreigner. Le Thanh Lang recently went to the town hall to get papers confirming she is single and eligible to marry.

"Any country will do, I'll take anyone who will accept me," she said, waving the papers. "I need to send money to my parents." Besides the marriage broker's fee, the groom gives about $300 to his bride's family, Lang said. After that, if all goes well, her husband may send up to several thousand dollars a year to her family - depending on what he can afford.



AP

A wedding photo of Nguyen Thi Chin's granddaughter, who married a Vietnamese man, hangs on the wall of Chin's home on Tan Loc island in Can Tho, Vietnam, Wednesday, May 7, 2008.

Many Tan Loc families with married daughters abroad have big homes with color TVs, new furniture and karaoke machines.

Their neighbors live in huts.

Tran Thi Sach's concrete home, with four large rooms and shiny green tile floors, is a mansion by island standards.

"Since my daughters got married, I've retired," said Sach, 59, who used to toil in the rice fields with her husband.

"We lived in a shack," she said. "We had to work no matter how hot it was, no matter how much it rained, from 5 in the morning until 5 in the afternoon. Sometimes we could only afford rice porridge."

When her daughter Tho first said she planned to go to a marriage broker, Sach objected. What if her in-laws abused her? Where would she turn for help?

Tho married six years ago, and her younger sister Loi two years later. "Their husbands are gentle, handsome and hardworking," Sach said. "They are really fine men."

Next door, Nguyen Thi Chin lives in a two-room shack with the roof so leaky that when it rains she must move from spot to spot to avoid getting wet. Each of her seven children married a Vietnamese, all of them poor. At 70, she is still working, pulling mussels from the muck in the Mekong River.

"I could never have a house like that," Chin said, glancing next door. "It's my destiny to be poor. If I had another daughter, I'd ask her to marry a foreigner."

More than 100,000 Vietnamese women have married Taiwanese men over the last 10 years and the numbers are rising, said Gow Wei Chiou of the Taiwan representative office in Hanoi. In the same period, roughly 28,000 Korean men married Vietnamese, according to the Vietnam Women's Union.

As more Taiwanese and Korean women move to cities to work, many men in those countries, especially those from rural areas, face increasing difficulty finding wives, said Chiou.

"Taiwanese women want to get married when they are much older, and they are also very opinionated," said Lin Wen-jui, 39, who met his Vietnamese wife through a Taiwanese friend in Ho Chi Minh City. She has since taken a Taiwanese name, learned Mandarin and opened a restaurant.

The overseas marriage trend has been boosted by online matchmaking services such as the Singapore-based Mr. Cupid, which offers a "comprehensive Vietnamese marriage package" and five-day matchmaking tours. "No one ever came on our trip without finding their dream bride," the site boasts.

In 2002, not long after Quyen went through her paces for her Taiwanese future husband, the Vietnam government outlawed commercial matchmaking services. Vietnamese media were reporting the phenomenon in vivid detail, and authorities said they were concerned that the business could be a cover for trafficking women into prostitution.

"They take hundreds of women at a time to a hotel and line them up for the men," said Nguyen Thi Ngoc Hanh, vice chairwoman of the Ho Chi Minh City Women's Union, a government agency that supports women. "It's very disrespectful."

But although driven underground, the practice continues, abetted by village matchmakers and secluded meetings with suitors.

Half the brides in such marriages are under 21, half the grooms between 40 and 60.

"Sometimes the men ask them to pose naked," Nguyen said "It's inhumane."

Quyen still has vivid memories of going to the matchmaker's house in Ho Chi Minh City, a 120-mile bus ride and a world away from Tan Loc. "I was scared," she said.

Quyen made the final five. Speaking through an interpreter, the man asked a few simple questions: How many brothers and sisters do you have? How far did you go in school?

They had dinner and Quyen agreed to marry him on the spot.

"My life in Taiwan is good," she said during a visit to Tan Loc. "My husband and his family treat me well."

Life is not so good, however, for the young men in Tan Loc who watch the exodus of marriage-aged women with despair.

"If all the girls leave," said Nguyen Hoang Mong, 19. "there won't be anyone left for us. Marriage shouldn't be about money. It should be about love."

Life & Style

Behind the brief fairy tale

By BOOTH MOORE
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES TIMES

The film "America the Beautiful" follows Gerren Taylor's brief career and explores our obsession with physical beauty.

Gerren Taylor was still playing with Barbie dolls when she walked the runway for the first time at Los Angeles Fashion Week in 2003. Just 12 at the time, she was the youngest person ever to be represented by the runway division of L.A. Models. Although most agencies require girls to be 14, it's not unheard of for 12-year-olds to get work. Actress Milla Jovovich made the cover of the Italian fashion magazine Lei at 12, and Brooke Shields, Gisele Bundchen and Kate Moss were stars before they turned 16.

With her long legs and confident walk, Taylor looked as though she would follow in their footsteps. Then, during Richard Tyler's show, the last one of the week that April, she stepped onto the runway in a wedding gown and stumbled hard. She tripped once, then again on the train that was in front of her, because the dress was accidentally put on backward. When her eyes welled up with tears, even the most hardened fashionistas wanted to give her a hug.

I wrote about that moment, the one that made Taylor a novelty -- the 12-year-old, plucked from the crowd on an L.A. street corner, who tripped on the high-fashion runway. It made for a good story. Other people thought so too. Oprah Winfrey came calling, and designers lined up to book her.

That September, she went to New York to see if she could make it on the world stage, and walked in the Tommy Hilfiger, Betsey Johnson and Tracy Reese shows. Hilfiger even paid to have her teeth fixed, telling Taylor she was going to be a top model. Making enough money for college seemed a sure bet after she became the first African American in a Marc Jacobs ad campaign. "We're all expecting her to be a big star," Jacobs said.

Then she disappeared. A year later, Taylor didn't book a single runway job. The advertising work dried up too, and so did the magazine editorials. She went to Europe to try her luck at the fashion weeks there, but was told by booking agents in Paris that 38-inch hips on a pole-thin 6-foot frame made her too big to model. (They wanted her to diet down to 35 inches.) In less than two years, her career had come to a halt.

That's where the story ends for most. Fashion designers and editors move on to the next girl and the next. It's just the way of an industry built on selling a fantasy that depends on novelty and impossible ideals. Women try to intellectualize the constant stream of airbrushed images, skinny models and too-expensive products, but the allure is too strong. So we go on searching for some notion of beauty that is always just out of reach. And we don't think much about what happened to last year's model.

Except with Taylor, documentary filmmaker Darryl Roberts was there to pick up where the industry left off.

His film "America the Beautiful" (in limited release), follows the arc of her brief career, trying to understand why we are obsessed with physical beauty. We see Taylor and her mom, Michele Gerren, struggling to navigate the sexualized world of fashion, while arguing about whether it's too soon for the young model to start wearing a bra. We hear from Taylor's school principal, who says with prescience, "How can you comprehend at 12 or 13 that you're going to be discarded?"

Then, in 2005, when Taylor returns from Europe humiliated, we watch her hit rock bottom. Agonizing over the flaws she perceives in her pancake flat stomach, her flawless face looks straight into the camera and she says, "I'm ugly."

She had written herself off at 15.

Today, Taylor is about to start her senior year of high school in Santa Monica, Calif., where she's a volleyball star. She never did make enough money for college, but she's applying anyway, to study psychology. Some kids would have gone to therapy to cope, but Taylor went to church and found support from peers who had the same issues with their bodies, even as they had envied hers in teen magazines.

"It was going so well. Then when it stopped I didn't know what I had done wrong," she said over a recent lunch, her Yorkie, Arlington, sleeping at her feet. "I was always so nice to people; I never turned my back on people."

Of course, she knows now that success in fashion has nothing to do with being nice.

Taylor is still stunningly beautiful, with perfect skin and legs so long, they stick out from the other side of the table. She is wearing jeans that are a little short, even with the bottom seams ripped out, a tank top, sheer shirt and ballet flats. Her mom is close by, as she always was, making sure Taylor wasn't wearing anything too revealing on the runway or risking a future paycheck by saying on camera that she doesn't like soy milk.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Gerren Taylor's first time on the runway was during Fashion Week in 2003. She was 12.

She hasn't fully regained her self-esteem. Then again, she is an 18-year-old woman in a looks-obsessed world. "At school, at lunchtime I'm in the bathroom holding girls' hair while they throw up. My friend's dad took her for a consultation with a plastic surgeon to get rid of her love handles."

At 140 pounds, Gerren is thinner than most. (The average American woman is 140 pounds and 5-foot-4; that weight looks a lot different when you're 8 inches taller.) Now, she worries about being curvy enough for boys to notice her. "Nobody is satisfied," she says. "I had a model friend who was too small. Pants were always way too big for her."

She says she has no regrets, because she has a story to tell. And the film has become its own kind of opportunity. Taylor and her mom have traveled with Roberts to promote it. At the Durban International Film Festival in South Africa, Taylor participated in a seminar for teen girls about self-esteem. She also modeled in a runway show.

Which brings us back to the fashion fantasy, and whether she could fall into it again.

"I still haven't given it up for good," she says. "It's still fun for me. But if I ever do another runway show, I'm going to be walking for the empowerment of women, not just walking on a stage."

And somehow, I believe her.

Moore is a Los Angeles Times fashion critic.

Soak up what's left of summer

By TRACY GRANT
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Your days are numbered.

And for many, the numbers are in the single digits.

The long, lazy days of summer that seemed in June to stretch in front of us and reach to the horizon are about to butt headlong into the frantic, frenetic days of fall.

School. Homework. Soccer practice.

Don't think you're exempt if your kids are still among those who toddle as opposed to those who slog with backpacks. The nights are getting shorter already. Those post-dinner trips to the neighborhood playground will soon become a memory, swallowed up by the gathering darkness.

So what are you going to do about it?

May we humbly suggest that you get out there and make some memories? And because we're waxing rhapsodic here, we'll even posit that you can do that without spending a dime.

Before alarms need to be set again or before the boss comes back from vacation, take a little time out to ...

■ Stare at the clouds. Columnist Anna Quindlen once wrote that "staring at the tedious blue of the summer sky" as a child helped form her as a writer. So take your child, lie on the grass and look upward. Within two minutes, you'll be delighting each other with found dragons and unicorns, hippopotamuses and giraffes. But don't be surprised if your child finds more critters in the clouds at first than you do. Your imagination just might need to be exercised a bit.

■ Catch fireflies. At some point you might want to share with your child that it's only male fireflies that light up in what is a mating ritual as old as creation. But don't let the science lesson overshadow the glee of stretching hands toward the sky to gently capture—or not—lightning bugs. Perhaps the real lesson to impart is Robert Browning's "A man's reach should exceed the grasp, or what's a heaven for?"

■ Go for a bike ride. But not one of those beautiful but dutiful family rides on a path where single file must be maintained to avoid dogs, walkers and other bikers. Instead let your kids see you go screeching down the hill in the neighborhood, riding with no hands or popping a wheelie. Wear a helmet if you must, but let your child discover that behind the watchful eye of a parent, still lives the mischievous hint of the child inside.

■ Share your best summer memory. The time you and your dad got stuck on the top of the Ferris wheel. Or when you caught your first fish and your mom freed it from the hook so you could toss it back into the pond. Or how your whole family gathered on your grandmother's porch to watch shooting stars.

■ Breathe. Deeply and slowly so that your chest expands to fill with the magic of the season. Drink in the season's air. Let your child see you do this. Maybe even spread your arms wide, take your child's hand and twirl until you both fall drunk in the best of possible ways to the grass. Laugh.

■ Look into your child's face and smile. You are looking at your masterwork, your greatest responsibility, your legacy. Let him see the unspeakable love that you feel. It's the very definition of a summer love.

Jamie Foxx, Fran Drescher turn out for Obama party

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Celebrities aren't always coy about their love affairs.

Jamie Foxx, Fran Drescher, Lucy Liu and Isaiah Washington were among the stars who proclaimed their love for Barack Obama Thursday night at a swanky soiree.

VIP donors paid $2,300 each to attend the Black and White Gala for Barack Obama at a private home in Beverly Hills.

Mario Van Peebles and other guests munched on croissants, crudites, olives and eggplant while a seven-member gospel choir performed.

They set the evening's tone with a rousing song: "Time for a change. We are the people, we can do it."

The party raised more than $200,000 for the Obama campaign, said Theresa DeBell, who hosted the event with her husband, Robert Siegel.

Foxx, who is set to appear at the Democratic National Convention in Denver, greeted congressmen and other guests at a table in the corner, his teenage daughter by his side. "Dancing With the Stars" runner-up Melanie Brown, in a bejeweled black gown, chatted with actress Nia Long, who has been following Obama's campaign for the past year.

AP

Host Fran Drescher addresses the audience at "A Black and White Gala for Barack Obama…America's Next President," in Beverly Hills, Calif., Thursday, Aug. 21, 2008.

"This is the first election where I've actually paid attention to every single thing, and I think it's because I'm a mom now," Long said. "I just think Barack is amazing... I admire him. I admire Michelle."

Drescher, a women's-health advocate who worked with Obama on the Gynecologic Cancer Education and Awareness Act, was mistress of ceremonies. Drescher said she originally supported Hillary Clinton but now is fully behind Obama.

"He stands for everything that I believe in," she said. "I think he's inspirational, and that's what this country needs right now."

Drescher, who is set to speak at the women's caucus at the DNC, said she still hopes Obama might pick Clinton as his running mate.

Comedian Kathy Griffin also was rooting for Clinton as vice president.

"If not, I'm going to go with one of the Lohans," she said. "I think Ali has a bright, new future. But maybe Cody could really get the job done."

McMahon to sell home, but not to Trump

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ed McMahon is on the move.

McMahon has agreed to a deal with a private buyer for his hilltop home, said Howard Bragman, the former "Tonight" show sidekick's spokesman.

McMahon

Bragman declined to name the buyer or the selling price. But he said it isn't real estate mogul Donald Trump, who recently offered to buy McMahon's home and act as a landlord.

"For Mr. Trump, this acquisition was not business-related, but, as he has stated, was meant to help out an American icon," said Michael Cohen, special counsel to Trump. "If another buyer should emerge who will create the benefit Mr. Trump sought for Ed McMahon, then he is clearly pleased."

Bragman said McMahon and his wife, Pamela, will move out of the home when the sale is complete.

The couple's property is located in a hilltop gated community that is also home to Britney Spears.

McMahon has faced money woes for months, with creditors filing lawsuits against him for everything from unpaid prescription medicines to loans.

His home was facing foreclosure after he defaulted on a $4.8 million loan.

McMahon has said he was experiencing financial troubles because he was unable to work after falling and breaking his neck in March 2007. The 85-year-old has for years worked as a pitchman and recently resumed that role, appearing with comedian Jimmy Kimmel to advertise Pontiac vehicles.

While McMahon's foray into California's lagging real estate market may be near an end, his legal battles are not.

He sued Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and two doctors in July, accusing them of discharging him with a broken neck after his fall in 2007. He also alleged the hospital botched two neck surgeries.

The hospital responded in court filings on Wednesday by asking a Los Angeles Superior Court judge to throw out many of McMahon's claims.

Legal dispute among The Doors nears end

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The end is near for a bitter legal dispute between the three surviving members of The Doors now that the California Supreme Court has refused to take up their case.

Keyboardist Ray Manzarek and guitarist Robby Krieger are on the hook for more than $5 million after they were found by lower courts to have improperly invoked The Doors' name and images during a 2003 concert tour. After the high court declined to hear their appeal on Aug. 13, they'll have to pay up to drummer John Densmore, the parents of the deceased lead singer Jim Morrison and the parents of Morrison's deceased wife, Pamela Courson, who died in 1974.

The case goes back to 2002, when Densmore declined an offer from the other two to go on a concert tour as The Doors. Densmore said he didn't object to Manzarek and Krieger touring and singing The Doors' songs, as long as they didn't call themselves The Doors, use the group's distinctive logo or any other Morrison-era imagery.

"You can't call yourselves The Doors because you can't have The Doors without Jim Morrison," Densmore's attorney S. Jerome Mandel said.

Densmore and the parents sued Manzarek and Krieger in 2003 after the two began touring the country with Ian Astbury, former lead singer of The Cult, and calling themselves The Doors of the 21st Century.

AP

Members of The Doors, from left to right, Jim Morrison, John Densmore, Robby Krieger and Ray Manzarek are shown in this undated file photo.

THREE WISE GUYS

THE WASHINGTON POST

The Washington Post offers Three Wise Guys, from left, Justin Rude, Joe Heim and Dan Zak.

Motto contest, 'Favre' vs. 'Farve', face wash on body

By JOE HEIM, JUSTIN RUDE and DAN ZAK

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Joe: For the past couple of weeks we've solicited suggestions for a motto for this column. At last count we had more than 30,000 readers write in with possible mottos, a truly amazing response.

Justin: I think there were actually about 300 suggestions.

Joe: The point is that many of the millions of readers of this column cared enough to write and provide a saying that captures the very essence of what this column is about.

Dan: Like the person who suggested "The smart one, the cute one and Joe."

Justin: THAT was a good one.

Joe: I didn't really get that one. Anyway, since there were so many great submissions, we've decided to run a different motto every week. After all, nothing says Three Wise Guys like an impermanent motto. So, with no further ado, here is this week's motto, submitted by Jeffrey Susser, of Silver Spring, Md.:

"Three Wise Guys: Because everyone loves advice from strangers."

(And since Jeffrey's was the first one we picked, we're going to let him help out with a future column.)

■ ■ ■ ■

Dear Wise Guys:

Are all news readers dyslexic? Why do they pronounce Brett Favre's name as "Farve"? Why not "FAHV-er" or "FAYV-er"? The French don't pronounce Le Havre "Le Harve"!—Larry

Justin: It's a Frenchy name that started out sounding like "FAHV-ruh" but was eventually slurred into "FAHR-vuh." Say "Favre" five times fast and you'll soon find yourself saying "Farve."

Joe: The real answer is that the French don't play football. If they did, they'd pronounce it "Farve," too. It sounds tougher.

Dan: "Favre" is pronounced "Judas."

■ ■ ■ ■

Dear Wise Guys:

Lately I've been using face wash as body wash, and I was wondering if that's OK?—Sarina

Dan: No, it's not OK. Face wash is for faces. Body wash is for bodies. What, do you clean your ears with your toothbrush? Brush your hair with your belt?

Joe: What Dan's trying to say is that face washes are generally more expensive than body washes, and they also contain such things as anti-aging ingredients or salicylic acid to prevent blemishes, so it's probably a waste to use them on your body.

Justin: You so did not know that.

Joe: I asked reporters Michelle Thomas and Holly Thomas, who sit next to me. They're not sisters, but they're like the Wikipedia twins for beauty-care knowledge.

■ ■ ■ ■

Dear Wise Guys:

I recently moved to California, where there is no *Washington Post* home delivery! I am a fierce fan of *The Washington Post Magazine* and will die without it. I also enjoy your column. There's a Borders in Palo Alto that sells *The Post*, but it was sold out by the time I got there in the afternoon. I don't like mornings, but I also don't like reading the paper and magazine on the computer. Any suggestions?—New to Mountain View

Joe: This is almost a perfect letter. If you had said you were a fierce fan of OUR column and would die without it, we would take turns flying out to California on Sundays to drop the paper at your doorstep. The good news is that you can subscribe to have *The Post* mailed to you. Of course, you'll receive the paper a few days late, but you could always save it until the following Sunday to read. To subscribe, call 202-334-6100 and tell them we sent you. This will help us when we renegotiate our salaries.

Have a question only the Three Wise Guys can answer? Send it to wiseguys@washpost.com and await their words of wise-dom.

Michael Phelps to write new book

NEW YORK (AP)—Olympic superstar Michael Phelps will write a book telling the story behind his historic eight gold medal swims just in time for the holiday season, Free Press, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, announced Friday.

In "Built to Succeed," Phelps will also cover his philosophy on training and competition, as well as his life being raised by a single mother and coping with an attention-deficit disorder, the publisher said.

The book is scheduled to be released in December.

Phelps, 23, became the winningest Olympian ever at this summer's Beijing games, winning eight golds to add to six previous Olympic first-place victories. He holds seven world records.

Faded rocker Glitter finally arrives in Britain

LONDON (AP)—A British news agency says that disgraced rocker Gary Glitter has returned to London.

Glitter's return Friday ends a two-day odyssey after his release from a Vietnamese prison where he served time for molesting children.

Press Association says police officers were waiting to meet the 64-year-old. He had been refused entry to Thailand and then Hong Kong before agreeing to return to his native country.

Glitter's real name is Paul Francis Gadd. He was convicted in Vietnam in 2006 of committing "obscene acts with children" - offenses involving girls aged 10 and 11. He had a previous conviction in Britain for possessing child pornography.

Glitter's most successful song, the crowd-pleasing anthem "Rock and Roll (Part 2)," cracked the top 10 in the U.S.

AP

Gary Glitter arrives at London's Heathrow Airport on a flight from Bangkok, Thailand Friday Aug. 22, 2008, ending a two-day odyssey after his release from a Vietnamese prison where he served time for molesting children.

AP

In this April 23, 2008 file photo, actor Chris Kattan attends the opening night of the Tribeca Film Festival with the world premiere of "Baby Mama" in New York.

Kattan files for separation 2 months after wedding

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chris Kattan's marriage to his model wife lasted almost as long as a "Saturday Night Live" skit.

The comedian filed for legal separation from model wife Sunshine Tutt after only eight weeks of marriage. The couple were married June 28 in Yosemite Valley.

They spent roughly a month together; Kattan's filings indicate they separated on Aug. 10. The couple have no children together, and Kattan's filing in Los Angeles Superior Court on Friday indicates the pair have a prenuptial agreement.

By filing for separation instead of divorce, Kattan is leaving the door open for a reunion with Tutt, but is indicating the pair intend to live separate lives for the time being.

Kattan, 37, appeared on "SNL" from 1996 to 2003. His screen credits include "Corky Romano" and "A Night at the Roxbury."

Da Brat sentenced to 3 years for assault

DECATUR, Ga. (AP)—Da Brat was sentenced Friday to three years in prison for hitting a hostess in the head with a rum bottle during an altercation at a suburban Atlanta nightclub last fall.

The 34-year-old rapper, whose given name is Shawntae Harris, pleaded guilty to aggravated assault in DeKalb County. Superior Court Judge Gail Flake sentenced her to three years behind bars and seven on probation, plus 200 hours of community service and completion of substance abuse treatment, mental evaluation and anger management classes.

Harris was at a private Halloween party at Studio 72, a club in Tucker, when she struck then-Atlanta Falcons cheerleader Shayla Stevens, who was working part-time as a hostess.

A police report indicated Harris and Stevens got into a squabble after they bumped into each other. Stevens walked away and moments later was hit in the face with the bottle.

She sustained a deep cut to the cheek and some swelling on the forehead, and has a permanent scar on her face as a result, officials said.

Recordings by Da Brat, a native of Chicago and a protege of Jermaine Dupri, include the song "Funkdafied." She also has appeared on reality shows such as "Celebrity Fit Club" and "The Surreal Life."

AP

In this April 6, 2008 file photo, rapper Da Brat, whose real name is Shawntae Harris, poses backstage at the "Idol Gives Back" fundraising special of "American Idol" in Los Angeles.

'La Misma Luna' sweeps Imagen Awards

LOS ANGELES—"La Misma Luna" swept the honors at the 23nd annual Imagen Awards.

The film about a Mexican mother and her son won awards for best film, actor, actress, supporting actor and director during a star-studded ceremony Thursday at the Beverly Hills Hilton hotel. Established in 1985, the Imagen Awards honor contributions by and about Hispanics in the entertainment industry in 18 categories.

Television awards went to "Ugly Betty" for best prime-time program; "Dog Whisperer with Cesar Millan" for best reality show; "Mind of Mencia" star Carlos Mencia for best actor; "Snowglobe" star Christina Milian for best actress; "Heroes" co-star Dania Ramirez for best supporting actress and "Ugly Betty" co-star Tony Plana for best supporting actor.

Plana, the 54-year-old Cuban-American actor who appeared in "Three Amigos!" and "An Officer and a Gentleman" before his turn as Betty Suarez's father in "Ugly Betty," was also presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award. The Norman Lear Writer's Award was given to "La Misma Luna" executive producer and screenwriter Ligiah Villalobos.

Actress Selena Gomez arrives at the 23rd Annual Imagen Awards, Thursday, Aug. 21, 2008, in Beverly HIlls, Calif.

AP

Troubled son gets wrong kind of help from his guilty mother

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My 31-year-old son calls me only when he's in need of something—like bailing him out of jail. He never calls just to say hello or ask how I am.

My problem is my guilt feelings. All I can think of is that he's my son and I need to help him. In the meantime I am losing sleep, don't eat right and ignore the rest of my family. How can I help my son and not ignore the rest of my family?

DISAPPOINTED MOM IN LAS VEGAS

DEAR MOM: Your son will never learn the consequences of his actions unless you stop bailing him out and giving him money. You may think you need to "help" him, but what you are doing ISN'T helping him. It's allowing him to continue to live irresponsibly.

Talk to your spiritual adviser, talk to your husband, consult a psychologist if necessary. But change your focus, because you're directing your attention away from the people who really need you—and that's the rest of your family. And I'll bet in return you'll get the kind of attention you need.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 13-year-old girl. My parents own a small business, and I have to work there every day. The only time I get to see my friends is at school or if they visit me. I know my parents are trying to protect me, but I think I'm old enough to take care of myself. They promise that if I do my chores I can go see my friends, but after I have finished, they change their minds.

I think they are trying to keep me from having a normal lifestyle. Please help me.

CAGED BIRD IN SACRAMENTO

DEAR CAGED BIRD: Do your parents know and approve of your friends? Do they know their parents? Do they know where you will be going, how you will get there and back, and whether there will be supervision? Are they confident they can trust your word and that you will be back when you say you will be?

If the answer to these questions is "yes," then I agree, your parents are being overprotective. And further, it is wrong of them to make a promise to you and then break it. After all, trust works both ways.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been placed in an uncomfortable situation at my new job. One of my co-workers, "Wade," has begun planning monthly potluck and brown bag lunches where he shares religious videos and asks everyone to pray with him. I saw this time as an opportunity to get to know my new co-workers, but I do not share his religious beliefs, and I'm offended by the message.

I don't want to seem rude to my fellow employees by declining invitations each month, but I don't want to have religion forced on me at social gatherings. What would be an appropriate thing to do in this situation? (By the way, I work at a religiously diverse state university.)

CONFLICTED CO-WORKER

DEAR CONFLICTED: You mistook your co-worker's religious outreach project for a social gathering. Graciously and consistently decline the invitations. If you are pressed, say that you prefer to do other things on your lunch break. You may find others feel similarly once you draw the line.

P.S. If you are made to feel uncomfortable about your choice, report it to the university's human relations department.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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235- NEWS

Abreu rallies Yanks past Orioles

BALTIMORE (AP)—The Baltimore Orioles denied Mike Mussina his 17th victory, but the New York Yankees rallied to win 9-4 Friday night behind a 5-for-5 performance by Bobby Abreu.

Xavier Nady singled in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning for the Yankees, who improved to 3-50 when trailing after seven innings.

Abreu led off the eighth with his fourth hit, a single off Jamie Walker (1-1). Alex Rodriguez followed with a double, sending Abreu to third, and Jason Giambi popped out. Rookie Kam Mickolio replaced Walker and immediately threw a wild pitch to score Abreu, and Nady followed with an opposite-field single to right to make it 5-4.

Cody Ransom hit a three-homer in the ninth off Fernando Cabrera and Nady followed with a solo shot. Earlier, Robinson Cano and Jose Molina hit successive home runs.

Jose Veras (4-2) worked the seventh, Damaso Marte got two outs in the eighth and Mariano Rivera finished for his 29th save in 30 tries.

Abreu's five hits matched a career high, set Aug. 8, 1999, with Philadelphia against Arizona.

"The key to the whole game was we didn't get Abreu out at all," Orioles manager Dave Trembley said. "He won't chase bad pitches; that's probably why he is as good of a hitter as he is."

Derek Jeter got his 2,500th career hit, a bloop single in the first inning. He joins Lou Gehrig and Babe Ruth as the only players to have 2,500 hits as Yankees.

Hernandez homered and drove in two runs, and Aubrey Huff also had two RBIs for the Orioles.

Baltimore took a 4-3 lead in the sixth. Kevin Millar hit a one-out double, advanced on a single by Luke Scott and scored on a fly to the warning track by Hernandez.

But it wasn't enough to beat Mussina, whose only loss since June 30 was against the Orioles.

AP

New York Yankees' Bobby Abreu, bottom, slides home to score on a wild pitch by Baltimore Orioles reliever Kam Mickolio, top, during the eighth inning of a baseball game, Friday, Aug. 22, 2008, in Baltimore. The Yankees won, 9-4.

Red Sox 8, Blue Jays 4

In Toronto, Dustin Pedroia and Jason Varitek hit solo home runs, Paul Byrd won for the fifth time in six starts and the Red Sox beat the Blue Jays.

Pedroia went 2-for-4 with three RBIs and has hit safely in 46 of his past 50 games.

Alex Rios and Lyle Overbay hit two-run homers for the Blue Jays, who lost for the third time in their past 13 games against the Red Sox.

Byrd (8-11) allowed four runs and six hits in six innings.

Shaun Marcum (8-6) lost for the first time in five starts, allowing five runs and six hits in 3 2-3 innings.

Tigers 4, Royals 3

In Kansas City, Missouri, Miguel Cabrera hit two home runs and Justin Verlander pitched 6 2-3 scoreless innings as the Tigers sent Kansas City to its sixth straight loss.

Cabrera, who has 11 home runs and 42 RBIs in 34 games since the All-Star break, led off the second with a homer off Brian Bannister. He hit a solo shot with two outs in the sixth, also off Bannister. It was Cabrera's third two-homer game this season and the 12th of his career

Verlander (10-13) gave up eight hits, all singles, struck out six and walked three.

Bannister (7-13) is 0-7 with an 8.70 ERA in his past 10 starts. He went eight innings, allowing four runs and five hits.

White Sox 9, Rays 4

In Chicago, Rocco Baldelli hit his first homer in more than a year, Carlos Pena and Ben Zobrist also went deep and the Tampa Bay Rays opened a weekend showdown against the Chicago White Sox with a 9-4 victory on Friday.

Chicago's Nick Swisher homered in his fourth straight game, giving the White Sox a 2-0 lead with a two-run shot in the fourth, but the Rays came back.

Pena tied it at 2 with a leadoff homer in the sixth, and Jason Bartlett doubled in the go-ahead run off John Danks in the seventh, sending Tampa Bay to its eighth win in 11 games.

The Rays maintained a 4 1/2 -game lead over Boston in the AL East, and they continued to win even though Troy Percival, Evan Longoria and Carl Crawford are on the disabled list.

They began the day tied with Los Angeles for the AL's best record and, after taking two of three from the Angels, kept the momentum going against one of baseball's hottest teams. The White Sox had won eight of nine and had a 46-9 scoring edge over the previous four games while pounding out 14 homers—but they were victimized by the long ball this time.

Indians 7, Rangers 5

In Arlington, Texas, Fausto Carmona posted his second win since returning from a long stint on the disabled list, and Ryan Garko drove in two runs, sending the streaking Cleveland Indians to a 7-5 victory over the Texas Rangers.

Carmona (6-5), who missed two months with a strained left hip, registered his best start since returning to the rotation on July 26, allowing one unearned run and six hits with three walks and five strikeouts over six innings.

Cleveland, which matched its season high with its fifth straight win, wasted little time getting to Rangers rookie Matt Harrison (5-3) as Garko roped a two-run double to the fence in center in the first.

The Indians added three more runs in the second courtesy of run-scoring hits from Andy Marte and Jhonny Peralta, along with a sacrifice fly from Asdrubal Cabrera.

After Texas moved within 5-4 on a three-run shot from Marlon Byrd, Ben Francisco belted an RBI ground-rule double to right-center and Franklin Gutierrez drew a bases-loaded walk to establish a three-run margin.

Nationals 13, Cubs 5

In Chicago, Willie Harris hit his first career grand slam and a two-run homer, and Washington overcame a four-run deficit to beat Chicago 13-5 on Friday.

The Nationals entered the game with the worst record in the majors while the Cubs had the best. Washington won its second straight following a 12-game losing streak.

Harris hit his slam off reliever Neal Cotts (0-2) to cap a six-run sixth inning that put the Nationals ahead 6-4. He added a two-run shot in the ninth off Chad Gaudin for his first multihomer game in the majors.

John Lannan (7-12) allowed seven hits and five runs in 6 1-3 innings to beat the Cubs for the second time this season.

Washington's Ronnie Belliard had four hits, including his 11th homer, and pinch-hitter Aaron Boone hit a three-run double.

Mets 3, Astros 0

In New York, Johan Santana allowed eight hits in seven innings, and the New York Mets took advantage of the only two mistakes made by Roy Oswalt to beat the Houston Astros 3-0 on Friday night.

Brian Schneider hit a two-run homer and David Wright had an RBI single as the Mets beat a team with a record over .500 after winning nine of 10 against lowly Washington, Pittsburgh and Atlanta to open a 2 1/2-game lead over Philadelphia in the NL East coming in. The Mets have gone 14-4 since being swept by Houston in a three-game series to start the month.

Ryan Church returned to New York's lineup after sitting out with post-concussion syndrome since July 5 and was met with a sustained standing ovation. Perhaps the team's best player before his second head injury in less than three months on May 20, Church beat out a grounder to deep third in the second inning for a hit.

Schneider then put to rest Church's pregame joking that he did not have a big bat behind him for protection by homering to right for a 3-0 lead.

That mistake by Oswalt - and a wild pitch that set up Wright's RBI single in the first - was all the Mets would need with Santana (12-7) on the mound.

Phillies 8, Dodgers 1

In Philadelphia, Ryan Howard, Chase Utley and Chris Coste each hit home runs, and the Philadelphia Phillies pounded Greg Maddux in his first start for the Dodgers in an 8-1 victory over Los Angeles on Friday night.

The Phillies snapped a six-game losing streak to the Dodgers and remain 2 1/2 games behind the Mets in the NL East.

Maddux, who was traded from San Diego on Tuesday, allowed seven runs and nine hits in 5 2-3 innings, one of his worst outings of the season. The right-hander remained stuck on 353 wins, one shy of tying Roger Clemens for eighth on the career list.

Howard was a big reason why, hitting an opposite-field shot for his 34th home run and giving the Phillies a 2-1 lead in the fourth inning. Howard had entered the at-bat 3-for-36 with 18 strikeouts and just one homer in his last 14 games.

The Phillies did most of their damage in the sixth inning, when they scored four runs and knocked Maddux (6-10) out of the game. Coste capped the frame with a three-run homer to left field as the Phillies' slumbering offense scored its most runs this month.

Philadelphia entered Friday night with 61 runs in its 19 games (3.1 per contest), and hadn't scored more than seven runs since July 31.

Cardinals 18, Braves 3

In St. Louis, Adam Wainwright worked six dominant innings in his first start since early June, and Albert Pujols had three hits and three RBIs in the St. Louis Cardinals' 18-3 victory over the sagging Atlanta Braves on Friday night.

Wainwright (7-3) had been out with a sprained middle finger on his right hand. He added a career-high three hits and an RBI as the offense set season bests for runs and hits (26).

The right-hander, who successfully lobbied against a fourth rehab stint earlier in the week, appeared in midseason form while allowing five hits with four strikeouts and a walk.

Pujols has had 100 RBIs in each of his seven seasons, and is making a drive for eight straight with 32 RBIs in 34 games since the All-Star break. He has 82 RBIs with 32 games to go, 13 behind Ryan Ludwick, who singled twice and walked twice with an RBI.

The first five hitters were a combined 10-for-12 with seven walks and a sacrifice fly the first four times through the order, as the Cardinals pummeled rookie Charlie Morton (3-8) and two relievers for a 12-1 lead after five innings. Yadier Molina had four hits and four RBIs, Cesar Izturis had four hits, Rick Ankiel had three RBIs and Skip Schumaker had two hits and is 16-for-36 (.444) during an eight-game hitting streak.

Even pitcher Joel Pineiro, 4-for-43 on the year with 30 strikeouts, participated in the romp with an RBI double in the ninth off Julian Tavarez.

Brewers 10, Pirates 4

In Milwaukee, Mike Cameron homered to cap a six-run seventh, Dave Bush tossed seven sharp innings and the Milwaukee Brewers shook off a slow start for a come-from-behind 10-4 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates on Friday night.

J.J. Hardy also homered for Milwaukee, which leads the wild-card chase by three games with St. Louis playing Atlanta on Friday night. The Brewers are 4 1/2 games behind Chicago in the NL Central after the Cubs lost earlier Friday to Washington.

Bush (8-9) continued his resurgence since a pair of losses in June.

The quiet right-hander allowed three runs off seven hits to improve to 6-2 in his last 11 starts, going at least seven innings in eight of those appearances.

The Brewers gave him plenty of offense, breaking the game open with a big seventh inning after Bush left, capped by Cameron's two-run homer off reliever Sean Burnett that hit the right field foul pole and made it 10-3.

US beats Argentina, shoots for gold Sunday

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP SPORTS WRITER

BEIJING (AP)—The climb back to the top is nearly complete. One more win and U.S. basketball is golden again.

The Americans ended their streak of final four flops and Argentina's hopes of an Olympic gold-medal repeat, starting fast and finishing strong in a 101-81 semifinal victory Friday.

All that's left is what the U.S. players came for: a gold medal.

The United States scored 21 of the first 25 points, got a big break when Argentina star Manu Ginobili reinjured his left ankle, and surged into its first gold-medal game in eight years.

There's still 40 minutes to go, but this U.S. team looks good as gold. All the Americans have to do now is beat Spain, who they clobbered by 37 points in pool play, on Sunday to win their first gold in a major international event since the 2000 Olympics.

What followed was a frustrating and embarrassing stretch in which they couldn't even make the podium in the 2002 world championships, then managed only bronze medals after losing in the semis of the 2004 Athens Games and '06 worlds.

Carmelo Anthony and LeBron James were part of those bronze busts, and vowed they'd leave China with gold. Anthony scored 21 points and James added 15, 13 in the second half.

Luis Scola scored 28 points for Argentina, which didn't relinquish its title without a fight. Even without Ginobili for the final 3 1/2 quarters, the Argentines cut a 21-point lead into single digits and frustrated the Americans with their physical play, but they didn't have enough depth or firepower without their best player.

Lithuania and Argentina will meet Sunday for the bronze. Spain beat Lithuania 91-86 in the first semifinal.

When the Americans fell from the top of world basketball, it was Argentina as much as anyone who took their place - and hastened their fall. The Argentines, with Ginobili's flair and Scola's force, won gold in 2004 and silver in the 2002 world championships, beating the United States in both tournaments. The victory in Indianapolis was the first time a U.S. team lost with NBA players.

They knocked off the Americans again four years ago in the semis, and Bryant said two nights ago he wanted to face Argentina in this round.

AP
Argentina's Pablo Prigioni, right, pressures USA's Carmelo Anthony in their semifinal basketball game at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Friday, Aug. 22, 2008. USA won, 101-81.

Now Argentina's time has passed. The Americans want their spot back.

The U.S. lead was already 10 points when Ginobili, who came in leading the tournament with 20.3 points per game, went down in a play away from the ball, limped to the sideline and took off his left sneaker after reinjuring the same ankle that slowed him so badly in the Western Conference finals.

The Americans extended the lead to 21-4 and were up by 21 early in the second quarter. But they went ice cold against Argentina's zone, committed some silly fouls that gave away free points at the line, and saw the lead trimmed all the way down to 46-40 on a basket by Scola in the final minute of the half.

James wasn't with his teammates when the starting lineups were announced, having to sprint out from the back after his name was called. Then he was curiously absent in the first half, managing only two points.

He scored five quick ones in the third quarter, teaming with Dwight Howard to help the Americans break it open again. Anthony got mixed up in some chippy play with Scola and Andres Nocioni, but kept his poise and scored eight points in the period.

James hit two quick 3-pointers in the fourth to extend the lead to 84-66, and it wasn't in doubt again.

And for the most part, this Olympic tournament hasn't, either.

Bryant, Dwyane Wade and Chris Paul all had 12 points for the Americans. Carlos Delfino scored 17 for Argentina.

Stricker takes lead in Barclays title defense

PARAMUS, N.J. (AP)—Steve Stricker is right at home at Ridgewood Country Club—and the top of The Barclays leaderboard.

A year after winning across the Hudson at Westchester Country Club, the Wisconsin player shot a 7-under 64 in perfect morning conditions Friday to take a three-stroke lead over "This reminds me of home to tell you the truth," Stricker said. "This looks like a course that could be very easily in the Midwest somewhere. It reminds me of Medinah a lot. The grasses are the same. We putt on poa annua greens a lot where I'm from. It's bentgrass fairways, bluegrass rough and everything reminds me of home."

The 41-year-old Stricker, 21st in the FedEx Cup standings, had a 10-under 132 total on the tree-lined A.W. Tillinghast layout, the tournament site for the first time after 41 seasons at Westchester. He hasn't made a bogey since dropping strokes on the first two holes Thursday, playing his last 23 holes in 11 under.

"I think the course is in such good shape, that's why the scoring is good," Stricker said. "I think as we get further along, the scoring could get a little bit better just because guys will find a way to play it, understand it a little bit more and feel a little bit more comfortable with "I probably hit it better than I did yesterday, but nothing went in," Mahan said.

Kenny Perry, effectively the FedEx Cup leader with top-ranked Tiger Woods sidelined by a knee injury, shot a 67 to join Angel Cabrera (67) and Dudley Hart (69) at 6 under.

"I'm ecstatic," Perry said. "I'm in a good position."

Anthony Kim (67), Sergio Garcia (67), Kevin Streelman (70), Charley Hoffman (70) and Paul Casey (71) were 5 under.

"I definitely played a lot better," Kim said. "It's a lot more fun when you're not hitting out of the trees and chipping out sideways."

Phil Mickelson was eight strokes back at 2 under after a 70.

"A lot of birdies and a lot of bogeys," Mickelson said. "I need to go out (Saturday) and have a good day and shoot 6 or 7 under."

Padraig Harrington had rounds of 72 and 73 to miss the cut by two strokes.

"I'm tired," the British Open and PGA winner said. "I tried hard, but struggled to focus this afternoon. It really is a knockdown after the last couple of weeks."

Stricker eagled the par-5 third hole, hitting a 60-degree wedge shot from about 70 yards that spun back into the hole, and was 4 under after five holes. He hit a 5-iron to 20 feet on the par-4 11th to set up a birdie, and made a 6-footer on the par-5 13th to tie Mahan for the lead at 9 under. The four-time tour winner pulled ahead with a 12-foot birdie putt on the par-3 15th and closed with three pars.

The PGA Tour's comeback player of the year the last two seasons, Stricker hit nine of 14 fairways, 14 greens in regulation and needed only 25 putts on the small greens.

"They were perfect and they rolled great," Stricker said. "They were smooth. They still held fairly well, but you could tell that they are going to get firm."

After finishing ninth in the points race for the eight automatic positions on the U.S. Ryder Cup team, Stricker is trying to earn a spot at Valhalla next month as one of Paul Azinger's four captain's picks.

"I've got two tournaments going on within one. That's basically what I feel like," Stricker said. "I'm trying like heck to keep it out of my mind, but it's nearly impossible. I feel a little more pressure."

Garcia has thrived on old-school courses, twice winning at Westchester and claiming titles at Colonial and Congressional.

"It's a wonderful golf course," Garcia said. "You've got to drive the ball well and shape it both ways and make sure that your short game is in shape, because it's quite difficult around the greens."

AP
Steve Stricker studies the 15th green before he putts during the second round of The Barclays golf tournament on Friday, Aug. 22, 2008, at Ridgewood Country Club in Paramus, N.J.

O'Sullivan wins starting QB job for 49ers

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—J.T. O'Sullivan will start at quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers when the NFL regular season begins next month.

O'Sullivan clinched the job with a strong performance during Thursday night's 37-30 exhibition victory over Chicago, and 49ers coach Mike Nolan said it was time to make O'Sullivan's status official after a summer of uncertainty.

"J.T. O'Sullivan will be our starting quarterback going into the season and I'm expecting him to succeed," Nolan said Friday. "I'm very confident J.T. is at the point where he's our best man for the job right now."

O'Sullivan, a long shot to become the starter when training camp began at the end of July, overtook veteran holdovers Alex Smith and Shaun Hill during the past two weeks. The sixth-year player, now with his eighth NFL team, has never started a regular-season game in the league.

That is about to change.

O'Sullivan was picked to start San Francisco's preseason opener Aug. 8 against Oakland and has been practicing and playing with the first unit since. He didn't take any snaps in 11-on-11 team drills during the first seven days of training camp as Smith and Hill got all the work.

But both players struggled to grasp new offensive coordinator Mike Martz's complex system, and O'Sullivan was given a chance in the lead role earlier this month.

Fiji stint warms up Minor for New Caledonia tournaments

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Junior Team coach Jeff Race is expecting Thea Minor to be in tip-top shape when she competes in New Caledonia next month after battling the Pacific's best in Fiji for about two weeks.

"The tough games she played in Fiji will benefit her when she plays in New Caledonia in September," Race said in a telephone interview with the Saipan Tribune.

Race returned on Saipan with Mayuko Arriola, Christian Miller, Dina Jones, and Rafael Jones Monday morning, leaving Minor and Ji Hoon Heo at the Robin Mitchell Regional Training Centre in Lautoka to prepare for separate tournaments.

Minor will be competing in two tournaments in New Caledonia, along with five other players from the Pacific, while Heo is bound for Japan.

Before the events in the French colony, Minor played in two tournaments in Fiji, namely the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships and the Oceania Plate.

The Grace Christian Academy student placed third in the girls' 13-and-under division of the POJC and finished third in Pool A of the Girls' Senior division in the Oceania Plate battling older and taller players.

"I was hoping that Thea will finish second, if not first, in the PJOC. But she had an off day in the playoffs when she played Fiji's Annie Shannon," Race said. "In the Oceania Plate, she failed to make it to the semifinals, but she played tough matches, almost pulling off victories against her much favored opponents."

"These tough and intense games are what she needs to have a good showing in New Caledonia, where she will up against much stronger players," the CNMI coach added.

According to the website of New Caledonia's tennis association, Ligue Caledonienne de Tennis, Minor and the five other Pacific netters will compete in the "Games Interprovinciaux."

The tournament will feature junior players from New Caledonia's three provinces, which are represented by three associations, namely North of the Province Tennis, South of the Province Tennis and the Provincial Islands Tennis. The provincial event will run from Sept. 8-12 and will be held in We Lifou in the Provincial Islands

While waiting for the tournament in New Caledonia, Minor will continue training in Fiji. She will also spend a one-week training session with New Caledonia tennis technical director Gerard Winter.

"The training in New Caledonia is more intense that the one in RTC in Fiji. Players there train three times a day. It will be a great experience for Thea," Race said.

According to Race, the first training session in New Caledonia starts as early as 5 a.m. or before players go to school. After lunch break, players return to the training center for the second session and report for the third session of the day after school.

MINOR

"I believe Thea will be in her peak when she plays against New Caledonia's best junior players because of the intense training in New Caledonia and the tough matches she went through in Fiji," Race said.

The tournament in New Caledonia will be Minor's third off-island event since competing in New Zealand in December last year.

Talents on display at PBA Rookie Camp

MANILA— Teams with plans to overhaul their lineup for the 2008-09 Philippine Basketball Association season will have a great opportunity to assess the pool of talents this weekend as the league holds its Rookie Camp at the Emilio Aguinaldo College Gym in Manila.

All 48 applicants for the August 31 Annual Draft which will take place at the Market! Market! Activity Center in Taguig are required to show up for this two-day affair that will showcase the skills of the rookie aspirants.

The activity which begins at 10 a.m. Friday will require the rookie hopefuls to undergo a series of physical tests that includes doing push ups, sprints, sit ups, bench press, pull ups and parallel bars. At the same proceedings, their height, weight, wingspan and vertical leap will also measured.

After putting to test their physical capabilities, the applicants will undergo various drills in the afternoon before capping the day with a two-part scrimmage where they will be divided into four groups.

Group 1 bannered by prospective No.1 pick Gabe Norwood takes on the Rob Reyes led Group 4 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. while Group 2 anchored by Jared Dillinger plays Group 3, led by Solomon Mercado, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

"We hope all rookie applicants will take part in this camp since this is their chance to give all 10 teams a glimpse of the kind of players that they are," said PBA commissioner Renauld 'Sonny' Barrios.

The second day of the camp (Saturday, also at the EAC gym) will strictly be confined to scrimmage plays.

The first game at 1:30 p.m. pits Group 1 vs Group 2 while Group 3 takes on Group 4 at 3:30 p.m.

Seven Fil-foreign players have applied with Norwood and Mercado heading the pack. Leading the list of homegrown aspirants are two-time Philippine Basketball League (PBL) Most Valuable Player (MVP) Jeffrey Chan, TY Tang, Mark Borboran, Cholo Villanueva, NCAA MVP Kelvin dela Pena and shooters Jonathan Fernandez and Patrick Cabahug.

The Welcoat Dragons own the No. 1 pick for the second straight year, followed by Talk N Text at No. 2 and San Miguel Beer at No. 3

CLAY

From Page 28

Clay sat on the track, then plopped on his back, chest heaving. Four years after settling for silver at the Summer Games, Clay had wrested the decathlon title from Sebrle. He barely had the energy to celebrate.

Andrei Krauchanka of Belarus won the silver, Leonel Suarez of Cuba the bronze.

The 5-foot-11, 185-pound Clay is the first American to win the decathlon since O'Brien at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. He is small by decathlon standards, maybe the best athlete ever under 6-feet.

"I'm OK with that," he said.

Clay was something of a troublemaker as a youngster. "Graffiti and getting into fights," he said.

He went to school at Azusa Pacific, a small Christian college in suburban Los Angeles, where he still trains. Now 28, he still has the close support group he had then, led by coach Kevin Reid.

"I've seen him grow up," Reid said.

Grow up to become the greatest athlete in the world.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	78	49	.614	
Boston	74	54	.578	4 1/2
New York	68	60	.531	10 1/2
Toronto	66	62	.516	12 1/2
Baltimore	61	66	.480	17

Central Division

Minnesota	74	54	.578	
Chicago	73	54	.575	1/2
Detroit	63	65	.492	11
Cleveland	60	67	.472	13 1/2
Kansas City	55	73	.430	19

West Division

Los Angeles	77	50	.606	
Texas	63	66	.488	15
Oakland	58	70	.453	19 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	72	57	.558	
Philadelphia	69	59	.539	2 1/2
Atlanta	56	73	.434	16
Washington	46	83	.357	26

Central Division

Chicago	78	50	.609	
Milwaukee	75	55	.574	4 1/2
St. Louis	72	58	.554	7
Houston	64	64	.500	14
Pittsburgh	57	71	.445	21
Cincinnati	57	72	.442	21 1/2

West Division

Arizona	67	61	.523	_
Los Angeles	65	63	.508	2
Colorado	59	71	.454	9
San Francisco	56	72	.438	11
San Diego	48	80	.375	19

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 9, Baltimore 4
Boston 8, Toronto 4
Cleveland 7, Texas 5
Detroit 4, Kansas City 3
Tampa Bay 9, Chicago White Sox 4
Minnesota 9, L.A. Angels 0
Washington 13, Chicago Cubs 5
Philadelphia 8, L.A. Dodgers 1
N.Y. Mets 3, Houston 0
Milwaukee 10, Pittsburgh 4
StCincinnati 8, Colorado 5
Florida 5, Arizona 4

THE BARCLAY SCORES

PARAMUS, New Jersey (AP)–Scores from Friday's second round of the $7 million (€4.73 million) The Barclays being played on the 7,319-yard, par-71 Ridgewood Country Club course:

SECOUND ROUND

Steve Stricker	68-64	132
Hunter Mahan	62-73	135
Dudley Hart	67-69	136
Angel Cabrera	69-67	136
Kenny Perry	69-67	136
Sergio Garcia	70-67	137
Anthony Kim	70-67	137
Kevin Streelman	67-70	137
Paul Casey	66-71	137
Bubba Watson	68-70	138
Ryan Palmer	69-69	138
George McNeill	68-70	138
Charley Hoffman	67-71	138
Patrick Sheehan	69-70	139
Mike Weir	72-67	139
Ben Curtis	71-68	139
Tim Clark	70-69	139
Kevin Sutherland	70-69	139
Bill Haas	71-68	139
Martin Laird	70-69	139
Brett Quigley	71-69	140
Lucas Glover	70-70	140
John Merrick	69-71	140
Andres Romero	72-68	140
Vijay Singh	70-70	140
Rory Sabbatini	70-70	140
Nick Watney	71-69	140
Michael Allen	73-67	140
Tim Herron	69-71	140
Lee Janzen	71-69	140
Billy Mayfair	70-70	140
Justin Leonard	70-70	140
Briny Baird	69-71	140
Phil Mickelson	70-70	140
Jesper Parnevik	68-72	140
Stuart Appleby	71-70	141
Trevor Immelman	70-71	141
Jeff Overton	74-67	141
Glen Day	70-71	141
Bo Van Pelt	67-74	141
John Senden	71-70	141
Jim Furyk	70-71	141
Mathew Goggin	67-74	141
Justin Bolli	71-71	142
Jay Williamson	74-68	142
Dean Wilson	72-70	142
Steve Elkington	71-71	142
Paul Goydos	70-72	142
Robert Allenby	69-73	142
Carl Pettersson	72-70	142
J.B. Holmes	71-71	142
Kevin Na	72-70	142
Jonathan Byrd	72-70	142
Mark Wilson	72-70	142
J.J. Henry	70-72	142
Frank Lickliter II	71-71	142
Jason Day	74-68	142
Brandt Snedeker	71-71	142
Jerry Kelly	72-70	142
Rich Beem	68-74	142
Richard S. Johnson	74-69	143
Eric Axley	78-65	143
Nicholas Thompson	75-68	143
K.J. Choi	74-69	143
Stewart Cink	73-70	143
Tim Petrovic	71-72	143
Scott Verplank	73-70	143
John Mallinger	70-73	143
Charlie Wi	72-71	143
Ken Duke	72-71	143
Chad Campbell	71-72	143
Brian Davis	69-74	143

2008 BEIJING GAMES

Medal Count

	G	S	B	Tot
China	48	17	27	92
United States	31	36	36	103
Russia	19	20	23	62
Britain	18	13	14	45
Germany	15	10	15	40
Australia	13	14	16	43
South Korea	11	10	8	29
Japan	9	6	10	25
Italy	7	9	10	26
Netherlands	7	5	4	16
France	6	14	17	37
Ukraine	6	4	13	23
Jamaica	6	3	1	10
Spain	5	8	2	15
Belarus	4	4	9	17
Romania	4	1	3	8
Canada	3	9	6	18
Poland	3	6	1	10
Czech Republic	3	3	0	6
Slovakia	3	2	1	6
New Zealand	3	1	5	9
Ethiopia	3	1	1	5
Georgia	3	0	3	6
Cuba	2	6	11	19
Hungary	2	5	2	9
Kenya	2	4	2	8
Norway	2	4	2	8
Brazil	2	3	7	12
Denmark	2	2	3	7
North Korea	2	1	3	6
Switzerland	2	0	4	6
Argentina	2	0	3	5
Kazakhstan	1	4	6	11
Turkey	1	4	3	8
Zimbabwe	1	3	0	4
Azerbaijan	1	2	4	7
Uzbekistan	1	2	3	6
Slovenia	1	2	2	5
Bulgaria	1	1	3	5
Indonesia	1	1	3	5
Finland	1	1	1	3
Estonia	1	1	0	2
Mongolia	1	1	0	2
Portugal	1	1	0	2
Thailand	1	1	0	2
India	1	0	2	3
Iran	1	0	1	2
Latvia	1	0	1	2
Mexico	1	0	1	2
Bahrain	1	0	0	1
Cameroon	1	0	0	1
Panama	1	0	0	1
Tunisia	1	0	0	1
Sweden	0	4	1	5
Lithuania	0	2	3	5
Trinidad & Tobago	0	2	0	2
Croatia	0	1	3	4
Austria	0	1	2	3
Greece	0	1	2	3
Nigeria	0	1	2	3
Algeria	0	1	1	2
Colombia	0	1	1	2
Kyrgyzstan	0	1	1	2
Serbia	0	1	1	2
Tajikistan	0	1	1	2
Belgium	0	1	0	1
Chile	0	1	0	1
Dominican Republic	0	1	0	1
Ecuador	0	1	0	1
Malaysia	0	1	0	1
South Africa	0	1	0	1
Singapore	0	1	0	1
Vietnam	0	1	0	1
Armenia	0	0	6	6
Taiwan	0	0	4	4
Ireland	0	0	2	2
Afghanistan	0	0	1	1
Bahamas	0	0	1	1
Egypt	0	0	1	1
Israel	0	0	1	1
Morocco	0	0	1	1
Moldova	0	0	1	1
Mauritius	0	0	1	1
Togo	0	0	1	1
Venezuela	0	0	1	1

US beats Argentina, shoots for gold sunday
The climb back to the top is nearly complete. One more win and U.S. basketball is golden again. **26**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Abreu rallies Yanks past Orioles
The Baltimore Orioles denied Mike Mussina his 17th victory, but the New York Yankees rallied to win 9-4 Friday night behind a 5-for-5 performance by Bobby Abreu. **25**

Kontenders down Suns in Rotary debut

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Kontenders outshone the Suns in their debut, recording a 48-36 victory in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Soane Pua and Jester Kaipat paced the Kontenders, firing 111 points apiece, while Eugene Dillay chipped in eight, and Trevor Ogumoro contributed five

Ogumoro made the Kontenders first two baskets, while Pua and Dillay took charge of the team's offense in the remaining minutes of the first half.

Kaipat drilled seven of his total points in the first half, including a triple at the end of the first half, while Pua had six to give the Kontenders a 26-12 halftime lead.

The Kontenders were never threatened from thereon, as the Suns lacked the luster they need to recover and still the game. The only bright spot for the Suns was Jim Brel, who scored 14 points and failed to get support from his teammates.

Josh Kiyoshi made nine points for the Suns, but his baskets came when the game was already decided.

The win put the Kontenders in the company of the Southern Sonics, Garapan Rollers I and San Antonio Sixers, who all won their opening game this season.

The Suns joined opening-week losers CNMI Junior Nationals, G-Rollers II and the G-Stars.

Meanwhile, yesterday's game between the CNMI Junior Nationals and the G-Rollers 1 was cancelled due to miscommunication.

Rotary games are supposed to be played only from Monday to Thursday, but organizers had set a match Friday night.

Only three players from the Junior Nationals showed up for the game, prompting the rescheduling of the match.

Kotenders 48—Pua 11, Kaipat 11, E. Dillay 8, Ogumoro 5, Jo. Laniyo 4, Ngerchangor 2, Ju. Laniyo 2.

Suns 36—Brel 11, Kiyoshi 9, Maratita 6, Lisua 3, Salay 2, Yamada 2.

Scoring by halves: 26-12, 48-36.

Referees: Arnold Mesa and Connie Camacho

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Kontenders' Soane Pua,14, drives against a Suns defender during their game in the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Pua scored 11 points to lift the Kontenders to a 48-36 victory.

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

Olympic Dreams

Happens every four years. Not really interested in the Olympics and then when they start, that is all I watch on television for two weeks, gouging my eyes on swimming and gymnastics, sports which I will not watch for five minutes over the next four years.

But I love watching men's basketball. My dream is to see the USA Redeem Team play on television. Did I somehow miss them? And is the USA women's fastpitch team banned from TV? Haven't seen them, either.

Also conspicuous by their absence: the CNMI.

Ha! Just joking. How many of the two billion watching the parade of nations during the opening ceremony asked, "Hey, where's the CNMI?"

Well, when I saw Burkina Faso in the parade of nations, I asked "Hey, where's that?"

There are 205 "countries" participating in Beijing. The United Nations has only 192 members. That's because places like Guam, American Samoa, and Puerto Rico are considered by Olympic Committee as "countries" but not the CNMI. This year we moved a step closer to joining the Olympic family by becoming an associate member of Oceania. The CNMI could join the Olympics in the future thru persistence and effort such as being shown now by Mike White of the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association.

No athlete from Guam, Palau, FSM, or the Marshall Islands will come close to being on the same level as world class athletes in these Olympics which begs the question: "Why bother?"

Joining the Olympic family is more than trying to win medals. With it brings increased funding and opportunity for coaches and athletes, and embraces the Army motto: Be all that you can be. Of course, hardcore critics could say "hey, why not use that money to fix the power so we can see the real athletes on television?"

No one really loses at the Olympics. If you swim in the same pool as Michael Phelps and come in 8th, you didn't lose. He got 1st and you came in 8th place. Congratulations.

Oceania's top athletes are a notch below the world's elite. Mae Koime from Papua New Guinea who dominated her races on Saipan in June in the Oceania Athletic championships didn't get out of the first heat of the 100 meters in Beijing, finishing sixth with a time of 11.68.

Palau's Peoria Koshiba finished last in her heat in the 100 meters with a time of 13.18. For the record, Saipan's Yvonne Bennett clocked 12.98 this summer. Cora Alicto ran 13.31 for Guam. Meanwhile, Yvonne is left at home in Kagman watching the Olympics but only if the power is on.

Jesse Tamangrow ran 11.38 which may be fast in Palau but not as fast as Tyrone Omar (10.99) who is playing baseball at Palacios Field instead of running in the Bird's Nest.

FSM, called Micronesia at the Olympics, sent five athletes. Jack Howard carried their flag during the opening ceremony. He ran 11.03 in his 100 meters heat, finishing next to last. His time placed him 66th. But if you read his profile on Yahoo! Olympics coverage, you will see he is an accomplished world-class basketball player. Oops, Yahoo! confused him with Dwight Howard!

The Marshall Islands sent five athletes. Roman Cress who has raced on Saipan ran the 100 meters in 11.18, last in his heat and 77th overall. Guam has six athletes in Beijing, including flag-carrier Rick Blas Jr. who dropped both of his judo matches.

No big splash made by athletes from Micronesia or Oceania except for being there which is what the Olympics is all about. Most people don't win anything but everyone has memories that are priceless, even just by watching.

I dream about seeing the Redeem Team. Hopefully, we will get the gold medal game on television. Sure hope the power is on.

Clay brings Olympic decathlon gold back to US

BEIJING (AP)—Bryan Clay brought the Olympic decathlon title back to the United States, and it wasn't even close.

"We've got the 'world's greatest athlete' now," he said.

Clay finished the 10-discipline competition with 8,791 points on Friday, just 100 off Dan O'Brien's American record and a whopping 240 ahead of the silver medalist. It was the most one-sided decathlon triumph since the 1972 Munich Games.

Clay joins the likes of Bruce Jenner and Jim Thorpe as Olympic champions in an event that an American has won 12 times in 22 Olympics but only twice since 1976.

The event no longer grabs the headlines back home. Case in point: Clay's triumph came just minutes before Usain Bolt and Asafa Powell led Jamaica to a world record in the 400-meter relay. When their news conference started, all but a handful of reporters left Clay.

"I hope the Wheaties box and all those types of things happen," he said. "I'd love for this to be a spark for the decathlon and bring it back to the forefront of track and field."

Clay took the lead from the start Thursday, then widened it through most of Friday's second day, a wire-to-wire triumph his opponents could only admire. He was no worse than third in seven of the disciplines, including an Olympic-best 167 feet, 5 inches (53.79 meters) in the discus.

"Bryan Clay is king now," said Roman Sebrle of the Czech Republic, the world record holder and 2007 world champion who finished sixth, "and I was before. It was just about me giving him the crown for the next four years."

Clay led by a nearly insurmountable 479 points going into the final event. It was the 1,500 meters, and Clay was so exhausted he could manage little more than a trot around the track in 5 minutes, 6.59 seconds.

When it was over,

See CLAY on Page 27

AP
In this combination of 11 photos, United States' gold medal winning decathlete Bryan Clay celebrates his overall win, centre, and is seen in each discipline of the men's decathlon, surrounding, during the athletics competitions in the National Stadium at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Thursday, Aug. 21, and Friday, Aug. 22, 2008. Disciplines are, clockwise from bottom left, 100-meters, long jump, shot put, high jump, 400-meters, 110-meter hurdles, discus, pole vault, javelin and 1500-meters.